

# Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 3

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

February 17, 2010

## ANSBACH MOVING UP

A deployed Soldier and his JROTC daughter share a double promotion moment via VTC

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## GARMISCH NEW SECONDHAND

Volunteers from the community work around the clock to give the old thrift store a new look

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## SCHWEINFURT ALL ABOUT ACTION

A wounded warrior fights back, finds ways to improve his community

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## HOHENFELS LIFE SKILLS

Computers allow students to take a hands-on approach in their education

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### Huddle time

Join us for the next Community Huddle, a new monthly meeting for all community members that combines meetings like the town hall and Senior Spouses Roundtable. The Huddle will be held Feb. 25, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Tower View Restaurant, Main Post, Bldg. 209.

### DFAC changes

Beginning Feb. 22, dining facility patrons will be required to use their CAC card and associated pin to eat in the facility. See page 12 for details.

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## 2010 Best Warriors



Photos by Gertrud Zach

Sgt. Gale Beaubien charges past smoke on the M4/M9 reflexive fire range at the Grafenwoehr Training Area as part of Europe Regional Medical Command's Best Warrior Competition, Feb. 4.

## Beaubien, Van Houten head to next level

by STEVE DAVIS

*Europe Regional Medical  
Command Public Affairs*



Spc. Robert Van Houten, a nutrition specialist at the Vilseck Health Clinic, pulls a "casualty" prior to starting the M4/M9 reflexive fire range at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Feb. 4.

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Bavaria Medical Department Activity Soldiers captured 2010 Best Warrior NCO and Soldier of the Year honors during the Europe Regional Medical Command's annual competition at the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Feb. 3-7.

Sgt. Gale Beaubien and Spc. Robert Van Houten competed against six other medical Soldiers in a grueling test of physical and mental skills. Both excelled in combatives, military operations on urban terrain, small arms skills, day and night orienteering, a fitness assessment, written exam and other events.

After a sweaty, 12-mile road march that ended in darkness, participants were ready and alert in dress uniforms the next morning as they were evaluated on confidence and military knowledge by a board of senior NCOs.

Beaubien, 27, a health care specialist in the operations sec-

tion of the Schweinfurt Health Clinic, hails from Clarksville, Tenn. Van Houten, 24, is a Vilseck Health Clinic nutrition specialist from Fountain Valley, Calif.

ERMC G-3 Sgt. Maj. Diamond Hough said the ERMCM Best Warrior competition has tremendous importance.

"This is one way we validate Soldier skills," said Hough. "Best Warrior brings together core skills every Soldier should have and reflects training our units perform year-round."

Beaubien and Van Houten will represent ERMCM at the U.S. Army Medical Command Best Warrior competition in Hawaii, March 13-20. The MEDCOM winners will compete at Army level later this year.

Both received a trophy and other awards during a Feb. 7 ceremony at Bavaria MEDDAC headquarters in Vilseck. They were congratulated by the ERMCM commanding general, and by MEDDAC and Army health clinic commanders and senior NCOs, and other Best Warrior competitors representing their medical units.

## DPW not taking energy waste 'lightly'

Story and photo by  
**WERNER OHLA**  
*USAG Grafenwoehr DPW*

During the last fiscal year, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr experienced record energy cost, with \$39 million in energy bills (electricity, heat and water). The outlook for fiscal year 10 is for even higher utilities costs as energy rates go up and more of the new main post facilities come on line.

Garrison leadership has established an Energy Management Task Force (Energy Tiger Team) to look closely at our energy consumption and to identify initiatives focused on energy reductions.

"Fight the (unnecessary) Light" is a USAG Grafenwoehr Energy Tiger Team initiative that is underway at both Rose Barracks and Main Post.

Electricians from the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) are working to reduce the street lighting levels as well as the parking lots and building exterior lighting levels to meet but not exceed U.S. Army standard.

"Fight the (unnecessary) Light" is one of the first energy conservation initiatives launched by the Energy Tiger Team. The DPW Utilities Branch was tasked to undertake an illumination

See TIGER, page 25

## Bavarian News on top again

*Staff Report*

The *Bavarian News* nabbed top honors as the "Best Metro-format Newspaper" in the Europe-region portion of the 2009 Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition.

Although it had won for the past three years in a row in the tabloid-sized category, this year was the newspaper's first year in the metro-format category.

Also winning at the regional level were: Mary Markos, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Public Affairs, for her feature article; Spc. Jerry Wilson, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Public Affairs for his contribution as a stringer photographer; and Trecia Wilson, assistant editor of the *Bavarian News*, for her art and graphics in support of a publication when she worked for U.S. Army Garrison Bamberg.

The winning entries will now compete against other regional winners at the Armywide level of the Keith L. Ware Competition.

## Garrison strikes back in the 'cold war'

by JEFF DARROW

*USAG Grafenwoehr DWP*

Within the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, a battle is underway – and we are winning the cold war. We are talking about the fight underway against Mother Nature's delivery of heavy snow. All USAG and tenant stakeholders have a role in the battle plan. The USAG Directorate of Public Works (DPW) has the lead role in the attack. Mother Nature's frontal attack has delivered approximately 200 percent above her expected delivery. The USAG and the adjacent partner communities including Eschenbach, Grafenwoehr and Vilseck have been stressed, but are winning the war. The team's unprec-

edented counterattacks have not only taxed our labor and equipment, but have nearly depleted the supplies of road salt available to cities and municipal snow fighters throughout region.

According to state and federal priorities, all available salt will service the autobahns first, followed by local needs. Here at the USAG Grafenwoehr, we have benefited by our ability to share salt and other resources between Rose Barracks, Main Post and our partner garrison in Hohenfels.

The USAG snow and ice removal plan gives us a specific attack strategy where the USAG's highest priorities are addressed first. These priorities include

See COMMUNITIES, page 25



Photo by Stephan Kohl

A snow plow clears a road behind the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center, recently.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



# Community of Excellence involves partnerships

We recently conducted a garrison “All Hands” meeting. Most of our garrison personnel were in attendance, and one of the topics addressed was our goal of becoming an Army “Community of Excellence.”

We are already Europe’s premier installation, and the foundation for being a Community of Excellence is already established. Services and processes are in place and we will continue to be flexible and make the changes needed to best meet the needs of Soldiers and their families. Your input continues to be crucial and is the driving force behind the decisions we make.

The Army Family Action Plan Conference, scheduled March 9-10 here at the installation, is designed to allow each and every member of our community to submit the most significant issues that affect us at the installation and organization level so a resolution can be worked.

Issues that are raised may have command, Army, or even DoD level impacts. AFAP is



designed to elevate those issues that may need higher level decisions or policy changes. Your questions, comments, ideas or suggestions are important and the proof is in what AFAP has accomplished – 101 legislative changes, 145 Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense policy changes, and 164 changes to programs and services.

The AFAP Conference works so well because it translates what you and your family needs to the well-being of the entire Army. This contributes to our readiness and retention because we are able to resolve issues and concerns through a process that is guided by you, your neighbors, your co-workers, and these issues and concerns are addressed at subsequently higher levels if they cannot be resolved here.

But, AFAP is dependent on your participation. The success of AFAP requires volunteers for the conference, and most importantly, that you submit your issues.

We are still seeking your input for shaping standards of living and identify issues related to our current quality of life. Community members

can submit issues in the yellow AFAP submission boxes at various locations on Main Post and Rose Barracks, by emailing [simone.larson@eur.army.mil](mailto:simone.larson@eur.army.mil), through the Web site at [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/cms.asp#afap](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/cms.asp#afap), or by calling DSN 476-2237, 475-2797 or CIV 09662-83-2237, 09662-83-2797.

On a similar note, we held a goal setting workshop for our Installation Strategic Sustainability Plan last week. We brought together members of our garrison staff, Joint Multinational Training Command, Bavarian Medical Activity and the German community to develop a long-term vision and goals to address factors such as economic impact of the installation, forest and land management, environmental management, infrastructure, workforce, medical support, well-being, and safety and security.

Sustainable means we are able to maintain the resources we have and ensure they will meet our future requirements. These are 25-year goals, and our community stakeholders provided valuable input in how we could mutually address many of our challenges such as energy use and quality of life.

Several of our German partners addressed issues such as leased housing and alternative energy resources. The construction department representative of the Government of the Upper Palatinate stressed the success of our construction efforts in support of Army Transformation was based on outstanding cooperation.

He also stressed that the Government of the Upper Palatinate had a special interest in the use of alternative energy resources and stood ready to assist us.

These are the types of partnerships and suggestions that will drive our future success. We are one community, but we don’t work alone. We depend on our entire community and its partners to provide the feedback, ideas and support to keep us sustainable and a Community of Excellence.

Army Strong!

*Col. Chris Sorenson  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

CSM CORNER



# Differences, diversity make for a stronger community

First off, I’d like to congratulate several members of our community who have distinguished themselves in local competitions recently.

Last week two of our Soldiers excelled in the Europe Regional Medical Command’s Best Warrior Competition. Schweinfurt Health Clinic’s Sgt. Gale Beaubien and Spc. Robert Van Houten of Vilseck’s Health Clinic will now move on to compete in U.S. Army Medical Command’s Best Warrior Competition at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, March 13-20.

Also, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s Public Affairs Office received several awards in the Europe-region portion of the 2009 Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition. Their submissions will move on to the next level to compete against the rest of the Army’s best.

If you see any of these warriors out in the community, be sure to congratulate them.



## Celebrating Diversity

In addition to our award winners, this month we celebrate the contributions that African Americans have made to the U.S. Army and our great nation.

Join us in celebrating Black History month, Feb. 25, from 4–6 p.m., at the Netzaberg Teen Center. For this annual observance, the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr and Joint Multinational Training Command will recognize the national, social, scientific and political contributions made by black Americans. This year’s theme is “The History of Black Economic Empowerment.”

The event will include food, giveaways, presentations from elementary schools and live performances, including songs by a gospel group. For more information regarding the event, contact Master Sgt. Celeste Brown at DSN 475-8038, CIV 09641-83-8038.

## Strength in Diversity

In addition to celebrating the culture and contributions of our African-American community members, I’d also like to draw

attention to an initiative that began this year called “Strength in Diversity.”

Strength in Diversity recognizes individual excellence in the workplace and in our community. Army diversity is defined as the unique attributes, experiences and backgrounds of our Soldiers, civilians and family members that enhance our global capabilities and make us an adaptive, culturally astute force.

Locally, the Bavarian Strength in Diversity campaign will publicly recognize the roles, accomplishments and dedication of the Soldiers, civilians, and family members that make up our community in the Bavaria region and who support the U.S. Army Europe mission. While everyone has a different opinion and method for achieving success, when combined, these “differences” contribute to a stronger USAREUR team.

For instance, in the last edition of the Bavarian News, we highlighted Spc. Magdalena McMillon, radiology specialist at the Schweinfurt’s Health Clinic who will pursue her dreams at Officer Candidate School.

In this edition (page 4), Eagle Scout Patrick

Voss sets an example for teenagers and adults alike, and demonstrates through volunteerism that one person really can make a difference.

Be on the lookout in future editions of the *Bavarian News* and listen to AFN for profiles on Soldiers, civilians and family members whose diversity contributes to the overall quality of life in our community.

As Maya Angelou wrote in her poem, “Human Family”:

*I note the obvious differences  
between each sort and type,  
but we are more alike, my friends,  
than we are unlike.*

Let us resolve to see our differences in a new light and celebrate the strength in our diversity.

*Command Sgt. Maj.  
William Berrios  
CSM, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

COMMENTARY

# Living in less-than-desirable places builds families’ ‘muscles’



**JACEY  
ECKHART**  
*Mandatory Fun*

I met Laura last fall at a workshop at 29 Palms, Calif. If you have never been to 29 Palms yourself, I want you to picture the blaze of desert sunsets. The exotic twist of a Joshua tree. Raking your lawn for snakes.

“I remember you said something along the lines of how you like (less than fabulous) base like 29 Palms because they are a proving ground for the family,” Laura said on Facebook. “I was just curious to hear more about what you meant by that.”

Man, I gotta learn to watch what I say in public. Because I do think being stationed at the Base of the Ugly “Suckfest” (Stop feeling smug Minot, N.D.; Sasebo, Japan; Fort Polk, La. I mean you, too.) is one of the most significant things that happens during a military career. Laura already understood a big part of that

significance. She counted herself lucky to be with her husband and baby and to live within walking distance of 10 different playgrounds.

Yet the truth is that when a military spouse is making the effort to be positive, he or she still has to face the reality of the Suckfest. She still has to face stupid stuff like no child care at the gym. Or ugly stuff — like the stinky lake in the middle of the base. Or staggeringly exhausting stuff — like the prospect of a three-hour drive with an 8 month-old baby just to do something easy like go to a bookstore.

“It would be easy to go on about (these things) all day, but then I’d be miserable!” wrote Laura.

And misery isn’t what Laura and so many spouses like her are aiming for. Instead they want to know about the good effects that living someplace crummy might have on the family.

That kind of question makes most of us skip right to our pithy quote collection. Nietzsche: “That which does not kill us makes us stronger.” My parish priest: “Don’t ask for a light load, but rather ask for a strong back.”

I confess I was even tempted to embroider Leighton: “Adversity is the diamond dust that heaven polishes its jewels with.”

Ack. I stopped myself just in time.

Laura doesn’t need to add nausea to her list of ills. What she needs is proof. She needs

research that says something like “the successful negotiation of a Suckfest-classified base yields military families that are 10 times smarter, sexier, wealthier and thinner than their counterparts stationed at Kaneohe Bay, San Diego or Garmisch, Germany.”

But I couldn’t find any study like that. Instead, I can only tell you that my theory is that living at the Suckfest base yields at least three benefits:

## Outside Attacker

Psychologist Mary Pipher points out that in modern society the things that pull families apart come from inside the family — depression, apathy, selfishness, emotional distance. In military families, we are pulled apart by forces outside our families — war, natural disaster, Suckfest bases. Going through these things together, figuring out how handle them with a little patience and grace, can pull family members together to fight against that outside force.

## Increased Suckfest Skillset

In a difficult environment, couples are pushed to get better at negotiating the stupid, ugly stuff that is part of adult life at Base Suckfest. Over time, military couples get better at this because they are pushed by necessity, which is nice.

But for military folks, the thing I see that is

so encouraging is that ability to self-regulate doesn’t go away when you move from the bad base. Instead, every ounce of your ability to get through the Suckfest stays with you. It’s a muscle that grows and bulges until you look like Jillian Michaels on the hunt.

## Compounded Memories

One of the things I notice about couples who were once stationed at a Suckfest base is that over time, their memories alter and pay back like money socked in a bank.

Instead of remembering how miserable it all was, military families develop these incredible memories of the fresh shrimp off the boat in Louisiana; of how the mountains tumbled to the sea near Sasebo; of the spice market in Israel where merchants sold frankincense and myrrh even if you weren’t one of the magi.

I wish I could promise Laura and every other military spouse that she would live at the crummy base and win ultimate loyalty to herself from her service member and her kids and her in-laws and her culture.

I can’t promise that. But I can promise that you join the ranks of those of us who have done it — those of us who still benefit from the skills we learned at the Suckfest — and we appreciate all you mean when you say “29 Palms.”

## Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

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# ‘Outdoorsmen’ breathe life into WAQ

The first in a two-part series on the Warrior Adventure Quest at Rose Barracks’ Outdoor Recreation

by **MOLLY HAYDEN**  
*Bavarian News*

Sitting at a long table, surrounded by Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Brigade, Michael “Mizey” Misenheimer stuck out like a sore thumb. His overalls dangled around his waist and his long, curly beard tickled his chest. Far away from his home in Charlotte, N.C., Misenheimer glanced around the table and spoke candidly with the Soldiers.

“Well, what did you think?” asked Misenheimer, referring to the adventure of the day.

“I was scared,” admitted one Soldier, talking briefly about dangling off cables, suspended 30 meters above ground, while participating in a unique form of climbing called “klettersteig.”

“I didn’t know what to expect, but in the end it was a lot of fun,” piped in another Soldier.

“It was harder than I expected,” said a third.

At that moment, Jeff Carson walked into the room. His long, red hair hid under a tie-dyed bandana.

“Why the long faces?” he asked, smiling. “You guys worn out?”

Mumbles and laughter followed.

Carson and Misenheimer may not look the part, but their service to the U.S. Army is undeniable. These “outdoorsmen” represent two of the five new recreation specialists to join the Outdoor Recreation team, and more importantly, to focus on the Warrior Adventure Quest (WAQ) program.

“They were brought here for a few months, starting in January, as extra manpower to aid with this important program during the return of the 172nd Soldiers,” said Charles Roster, Warrior Adventure Quest program manager. “They are all talented and motivated guys. They believe in the program and want to see it succeed.”

Carson and Misenheimer, along with Jared Greene, Luis Robledo and Todd Tivisonno, represent the best of the best. They were hand-picked out of hundreds of applicants to represent WAQ and ensure the safety and adventure of redeploying 172nd Infantry Brigade Soldiers during the upcoming months.

They’ve traveled as far and wide as the Soldiers themselves and although their time here is short, each has a unique skill set that will help guide Soldiers through their readjustment period.

Tivisonno’s mix of leadership skills and robust personality makes him a great guide on various WAQ adventures. For him, it’s the impact of WAQ on the Soldiers that makes this program successful.

“I love leading adventure groups and hikes,” said Tivisonno. “But to see you are making a difference in the lives of these Soldiers is much more rewarding.”

Tivisonno explained that after returning from a long deployment, many Soldiers find ways to maintain the adrenaline rush they felt downrange. Maintaining this rush often results in dangerous behaviors such as driving too fast, using violence to solve problems and drinking unhealthy amounts of alcohol.

Through WAQ, Soldiers are exposed to healthy alternative high-adrenaline activities in a safe, controlled environment. These types of activities have proven to mitigate boredom and high-risk behavior, according to Tivisonno.

“We help them work with their new normal,” he said. “We can see the effect, see their personalities changing. This program works.”

Greene agreed. Having been in both the National Guard and Navy, he finds it easy to relate to Soldiers and can see the effects of the program almost immediately.

“I know what they are going through,” said Greene. “I wanted to see how it was from the other



Courtesy photo

**Recreation Specialists Todd Tivisonno (front) and Jeff Carson demonstrate the art of klettersteig during a recent outing with the 172nd Infantry Brigade. The WAQ program offers numerous high-adventure activities for redeploying Soldiers, aimed to assist in a healthy transition back to their home station after a combat tour.**



Carson



Greene



Misenheimer



Robledo



Tivisonno

side, and watching the progression of Soldiers throughout the day is amazing.

“From morning to evening, it’s like a different group. They are more positive, more open. They’ve accomplished something new,” said Greene.

After each activity, a leader-led after action debriefing (L-LAAD) is conducted. The debriefing is a decompression tool that addresses the potential impact of executing military operations and enhances cohesion and bonding among and within small units.

“This gives them a chance to open up, talk about the day and their experiences since coming home,” explained Carson, an experienced river guide and high ropes instructor.

“Talking about feelings is not always a part of the military culture, but whether or not they talk about it, they can see that other people are going

through the same thing they are. It’s about the support,” Carson said.

“What (the Soldiers) are experiencing now could affect them for the rest of their life,” said Misenheimer. “While I’m here, I’m going to take this opportunity to better understand who they are. The program makes a lot of sense.”

WAQ offers numerous activities including scuba diving, a high ropes course, paintball and white-water rafting.

“We’re here to provide something fun, something high-energy,” said Robledo, an experienced backpacking guide from Columbia who currently calls Birmingham, Ala., home. “We’re here to introduce Soldiers to what the Outdoor Recreation has to offer and hopefully arm them with a new hobby.”

Robledo hopes these newfound hobbies will

lead to more positive interactions between Soldiers and the outdoors.

“Living in Germany creates a unique experience for everyone involved,” said Robledo. “The Soldiers have a chance to explore and we have a chance to guide them and show them uncharted land.

“What better way to say thank you to our service men than to work with them and dedicate ourselves to helping them,” said Robledo. “We all share a passion for sharing our experiences and knowledge about these activities. I can’t think of a better job.”

WAQ is centrally funded through the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR), with oversight from the Installation Management Command and regional FMWR recreation managers.

## 18th CSSB Soldiers plunge into Warrior Adventure Quest

by **1st Lt. JENNIFER DYRCZ**  
*18th CSSB Public Affairs*

Four and a half months after Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, redeployed from Iraq, 25 Soldiers from the company took part in a Warrior Adventure Quest scuba diving trip to a converted sauerkraut factory in Munich, Germany.

The Soldiers had a lesson in scuba equipment and safety, paired off into groups and took to the water for roughly two hours of recreational scuba diving. The facility contained six interconnected tanks with varying depths of up to 14 feet.

“I found scuba diving inspiring and relaxing. This is something needed in our sometimes overwhelmed state,” said Staff Sgt. Sonia Britton, a supply sergeant with HHC, 18th CSSB. “I strongly suggest Soldiers participate in Warrior Adventure Quest (especially) for individuals coming out of a combat zone.”

“I really enjoyed it and thought it was a wonderful experience,” said Spc. Francis Jackson, a communications specialist with HHC, 18th CSSB. “I will definitely do this again.”

“I certainly could have used such a program after two combat deployments left me in search of the fast-paced adrenaline rush that was routine on the battlefield,” said Grafenwoehr WAQ coordinator Geoff Farrell.

WAQ signifies the Army’s full commitment to helping Soldiers effectively transition from a combat to a home-station environment. It does so by combining existing outdoor recreation activities with Battlemind, the Army’s psychological resiliency building program. As part of the Battlemind blueprint, Soldiers hold group discussions after each outing, sharing their thoughts on the experience as well as being home. This may help Soldiers work through emotional, physical or psychological problems and help them come away with an enhanced lifetime of leisure activities for a better quality of life.



Courtesy photo

**Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, practice ascent and descent techniques before swimming on their own. The HHC Soldiers took part in a Warrior Adventure Quest scuba diving trip to Munich, recently.**



Strength in Diversity

# New Eagle Scout sets sights to lead peers

by Maj. JENNIFER JOHNSON  
*JMTC Public Affairs*

Adults are not the only ones who strive to serve their communities. Cast your eyes upon newly inducted Eagle Scout, Patrick Vass, and you begin to understand age is nothing but a number. The life skills Vass learns as an Eagle Scout directly contributes to the success of the Army mission.

“I think I support my parents by trying to do my part in daily life, in school and at home alike; keeping up with my chores at home and my grades at school and being an active part in the community, and by helping each other in the family and the community,” said Vass. “It doesn’t always work out perfectly, but I always try my best.”

In December 2009, Vass received his Eagle Scout rank, which symbolizes the effort it takes to achieve the rank. Eagle Scout is the highest rank a Boy Scout can achieve. Although every Eagle Scout is a Boy Scout, not every Boy Scout reaches the distinction of Eagle Scout.

“It’s quite a challenge to make Eagle Scout. Less than four percent of all Scouts make it to Eagle,” said Lt. Col. Yancy Wood, the Army National Guard Advisor for the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, who also serves as the Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 303.

Vass joins an elite group of men who have earned the Eagle Scout identifier, like former President Gerald Ford, Neil Armstrong and Steven Spielberg. The host of activities required to win the coveted Eagle Scout rank is daunting for any Boy Scout who chooses to pursue this goal.

According to Wood, a Boy Scout must meet the criteria to earn 21 merit badges, spend at least 22 nights camping, and serve in numerous leadership positions. The pivotal event is the completion of the Eagle Scout project, which

**Strength in Diversity Initiative**

**The Strength in Diversity initiative focuses on highlighting individuals throughout the Bavarian footprint. The intent is to showcase stories of people who work together to make the United States Army Europe team a successful organization.**

is a six month long process of organizing a community service project.

Every Boy Scout is taught to make ethical and moral choices, to help others, to stay physically strong, and to remain positive in the face of adversity. At the tender of age of 14, Vass is a world traveler, an athlete and a scholar — attributes that distinguish him from his peers.

“Every year we hold elections, and the boys chose Pat as their Senior Patrol Leader,” said Wood. “In a boy-led troop, he is the one they look to guide and organize everything we do.”

Vass is the epitome of an Eagle Scout, volunteering his time to hone his skills as a future leader in the community. Vass says he enjoys the responsibility of being a role model.

When asked how the Boy Scouts will help prepare him for the future, he said, “It has taught me life and leadership skills, as well as a good work ethic. It has taught me how to be a reliable, trustworthy and helpful citizen.”

Understanding the benefits of the program, Vass’s parents encouraged their son to join the Boy Scouts of America at a young age.

“We started scouting in Georgia as a family affair with our oldest son Dennis,” said Sonja Vass, Vass’s mother. “It offered great activities, crafts, camping, outdoor fun and sports with a great purpose, which was character development, good citizenship and community service all in a faith-based setting. As parents, especially when

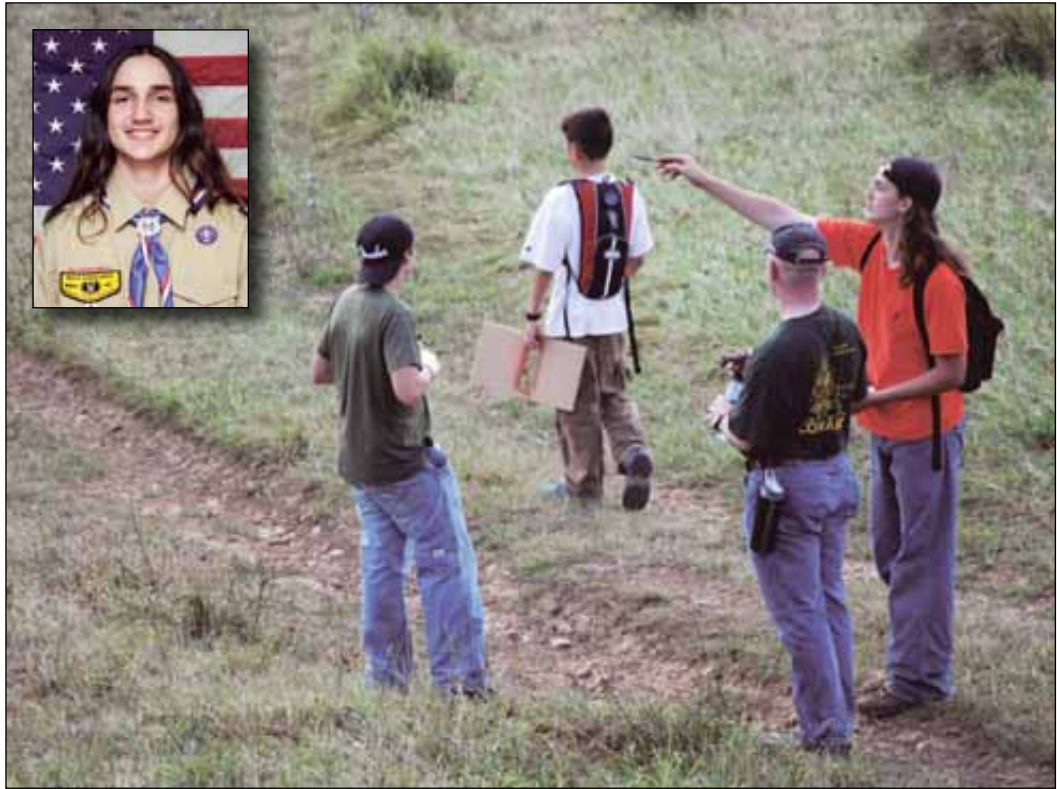


Photo by Tanja Vass

**Patrick Vass explains to some of his volunteers where the trail will go and where the next blaze needs to be marked while working on his Eagle Scout Project.**

you’re a young and inexperienced parent, you are expected to teach your children right from wrong, but most of the time you don’t have the right tools and Scouting gave us fun and easy tools.”

As a future historian or archaeologist, Vass will one day make his mark in the world. He can count on the skills he learned as a young Eagle Scout to point him in the right direction.

“I think he has great leadership skills,” Sonja said. “He can have fun with the boys and still be in charge and not lose their respect. I think that’s something that can be difficult even for some adults. And that can be attributed entirely to his scouting experience.”

## OTC drug DXM has potential for abuse

by DR. RICHARD J. HOOKER  
*Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service*

There is a behavioral trend among adolescents that all parents should be aware of – the abuse of over-the-counter-medications in order to get high. DXM (dextromethorphan) is an effective ingredient found in many cough suppressant over-the-counter medications (i.e. Coricidan, Robitussin).

Taken as directed, DXM has a long history of being safe and effective. The problem is that many young people are now abusing this drug at dosages that far exceed what is recommended. Often they have the mistaken belief that since it is and over-the-counter drug, it is safe in any amount.

The effects are not unlike PCP and can result in a serious health crisis. Equally as dangerous is the fact that many medications containing DXM also contain Tylenol (acetaminophen). Abuse of medications containing acetaminophen can result in liver damage and possible death. Since the beginning of this school year, at least seven school-aged children have been treated at hospitals for DXM

abuse in Bavaria alone.

Nick names for DXM include “Triple C,” “Skittles” and “Robo.” Short-term effects can include dizziness, slurred speech, disorientation, rapid heartbeat, hallucinations and loss of motor control. Vomiting is also very common including the foaming of the mouth.

The Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service wants parents to be educated about this issue. National estimates are that one in 10 teens has abused these products. Parents should talk with their children about the dangers of DXM and other over-the-counter medication abuse.

It has been shown that talking with children about these issues is one of the best ways to prevent them from trying it.

Secondly, parents should safeguard these and all medications in their home. The “medicine cabinet” is not an appropriate place for medication storage. Also, parents should be aware of any changes in their child’s behavior, including sleep patterns and grades. Sudden changes in behavior often indicate potential drug or emotional problems.

Lastly, parents should seek professional help if they are concerned. The Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service program is confidential and provided at no cost to any adolescent U.S. ID holder. Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service counselors are available in the middle and high schools throughout the region. Additionally, military treatment facilities, primary care physician and local hospitals are also resources that can be used.

During the month of February, the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service program, in conjunction with the schools across the Bavarian district, will be providing preventive education to middle and high school youth about the dangers of DXM abuse. This type of prevention education has been found to be very effective in decreasing drug use and abuse.

Working together, we can help prevent these problems and ensure that your child remains healthy, happy and safe.

*Editor’s Note: Dr. Richard J. Hooker is a clinical supervisor for the Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service.*

### Spotlight on Education



**Name:** Dan Breeze

**What grade and subject do you teach?** High school geometry and pre-calculus

**Hometown:** Cape Girardeau, Mich.

**How long have you been a teacher?** Eleven years.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?** Sharing something that I love, learning and math, and working with students.

**What advice can you give students to help them succeed?** Hang in there. It may not always be the most interesting thing to you and you may not understand now how you are going to use it, but trust us, you need all this stuff.

### Netzaberg Middle School Semester Art Show



**Students from Netzaberg Middle School’s 2-D art class display their mural from last semester’s art show.**

## Tutoring now available, 24/7

by ELAINE WILSON  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department has launched a free, online tutoring service for service members and their families. The site, [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military), offers ‘round-the-clock professional tutors who can assist with homework, studying, test preparation, resume writing and more.

Marine Corps and Army families have had access to the program for more than a year. Seeing the value, Defense Department officials decided to expand the service to encompass all service members and their families, officials said.

“Providing 24/7 academic and career support for military families during a time when so many parents have a deployed spouse has been an important and well-received benefit for Marine Corps and Army families,” said Tommy Thomas, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

“We are pleased to expand this program to all U.S. military families and provide peace of mind that their children are never alone when it comes to learning – there is always a certified, professional tutor available to help,” he said. Active duty service members, National



Guard and reserve personnel on active duty in a deployed status, Defense Department civilians in a deployed status and their dependents are eligible to participate, officials said. Along with test preparation, the site is open to students of any age – from kindergartners to high school seniors – for one-on-one help in math, science, social studies and English.

Many of these students, officials said, are making the most of the live, one-on-one help.

“Thanks for having this service when our family is separated at this time due to deployments and training,” a sixth-grader of a Marine commented. “My father is unable to help one-on-one.”

“I really appreciate this,” another program participant, a ninth-grader, said. “It really helps me understand my schoolwork. It’s going to really help me ace my exams coming up! I am definitely going to use this very often.”

Tutor.com’s network includes more than 1,800 professional tutors and career specialists who have delivered more than five million one-on-one tutoring sessions since 2001, officials said. Each tutor is certified through the site, and all sessions are recorded for quality control.



# Dragoons open doors of tax center



Staff Sgt. Robert Wareham explains paperwork to Pvt. Ayeanna Porchae Clark during her visit to the Rose Barracks Tax Center.

by **Spc. JERRY WILSON**  
*2SCR Public Affairs*

Col. James Blackburn, the 75th commander of the 2nd Stryker Regiment, along with a host of citizens eager to get ahead of the April 15 tax deadline, gathered to mark the official grand opening of the Rose Barracks Tax Center Feb. 1.

“Last year they saved us \$275,000 dollars in preparation fees,” Blackburn told the crowd. “That generated four million dollars in refunds. They are all about making sure you get paid.”

In 2009, the center assisted over 1,562 filers in preparing their taxes. This year it enlisted the help of the 2SCR to better serve the community. Four Dragoon Soldiers were trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service this year to help their fellow Soldiers with tax preparation and electronic filing.

Each Soldier underwent extensive training in tax preparation to ensure

they could assist customers in taking advantage of many opportunities to increase their refunds, such as the earned income credit. The Soldiers’ training wasn’t concluded after only one week however; each is currently being trained in more in-depth tax issues specific to military communities, including preparing state tax returns for all 50 states, foreign income issues and rental property tax matters. The center allows military community members to have their taxes prepared by professionals at no cost.

The Rose Barracks Tax Center is located on Rose Barracks, Building 245. The office is open for both walk-in and scheduled appointments Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, walk-in and appointment hours are from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

For more information contact the office at DSN 476-2714, CIV 09662-83-2714.

## Joint filing has its benefits

The third article in a four-part series on filing taxes

by **DENVER MAKLE**  
*JMTC Public Affairs*

This year, filing a joint tax return allows the service member and spouse \$3,650 per person. That’s \$7,300 in personal exemptions, before calculating other exemptions and tax credits.

The amount of exemption went up \$50 from last year, but if the service member is married to a non-U.S. resident, the couple does not get to take advantage of the more favorable tax treatment, unless the nonresident alien spouse applies for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

An ITIN is a nine-digit tax processing number that remains valid for the life of the tax filer; however, an ITIN is not an identification, work-permit or immigration registration number.

Since resident alien spouses generally do not qualify for a Social Security Number, said Tracy Cooklin, 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command’s tax center coordinator.

“An ITIN allows the service member and spouse to file jointly, which gives them a higher standard deduction, lower taxable income and hopefully a higher refund.”

Individuals needing an ITIN must submit a Form W-7, “Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number,” and attach certified or notarized copies of IRS approved documents to prove identity and foreign status. The IRS Form W-7 can be downloaded from the IRS Web site [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and should be sent to:

IRS, Austin Service Center  
ITIN Operation  
P.O. Box 149342  
Austin, TX 78714-9342

For proof of identity and foreign status, the IRS will accept a certified or notarized copy of valid foreign passport, so long as it is unexpired.

Individuals without a valid foreign passport may submit two or more of the following:

- National identification card (must show photo, name, current address, date of birth, and expiration date)
- U.S. military identification card
- U.S. or foreign driver’s license
- Foreign voter’s registration card
- Foreign military ID card
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) photo identification or Visa
- Civil birth certificate (required for dependents under 18 years old)
- School records (dependents or students - under 18 years old - only)
- Medical records (dependents - under 14 years old only)

It takes about four to six weeks for the IRS to issue an ITIN, said Cooklin.

“Taxpayers may also file an ITIN application with a paper tax return. When doing so, the application is attached to and mailed along with a joint tax return,” she said. “The IRS ITIN unit will process the ITIN application, transfer the new ITIN number to the paper tax return, and forward the tax return to the appropriate service center for filing.”

Tax centers in Ansbach, Illesheim, Bamberg, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Schweinfurt and Vilseck opened Feb. 1. Information on locations and phone numbers for each is available at [http://www.hqjmtc.army.mil/Organization/Special\\_Personal\\_Staff/Staff\\_SJA/Staff\\_SJA\\_TaxOffice.html](http://www.hqjmtc.army.mil/Organization/Special_Personal_Staff/Staff_SJA/Staff_SJA_TaxOffice.html).

Tax preparers are available to assist filers with any tax questions, said Cooklin.

Those applying for an ITIN may call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to check the status of their application.

*Editor’s Note: Tracy Cooklin, JMTC tax center coordinator, and Brad Huestis, chief of client services division at the JMTC Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, contributed reporting.*

## Tax tips podcast

Get expert advice and information for filing 2009 state and federal returns. Tax podcast features experts from the Heidelberg Tax Assistance Center with tips and facts on:

- common filing questions
- recent changes to tax law
- special considerations for filing taxes from overseas

To download the podcast, go to [www.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil), click on the “tax tips podcast” link in the right column.

Visitors to the homepage can also click on the “tax season” button for answers to frequently asked tax questions and information on garrison tax centers throughout U.S. Army Europe.

## Tax centers

<b>Ansbach/Katterbach</b> Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments Katterbach Kaserne, Bldg. 5817 (Law Center); DSN 467-2324; CIV 09802-83-2324	walk-in and scheduled appointments M: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments Grafenwoehr Training Area, Bldg. 216, 2nd floor; DSN 475-9258, CIV 09641-83-9258
<b>Ansbach/Illesheim</b> Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments Stork Barracks, Bldg. 6506 (Law Center); DSN 467-4511, CIV 09841-83-4511	<b>Hohenfels</b> Hours: M/W/F: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments T/Th: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments 1st Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-noon, appointment only Hohenfels Training Area, Bldg. 313 (Law Center); DSN 466-2836, CIV 09472-83-2836
<b>Garmisch</b> By appointment only via Hohenfels Tax Center Artillery Kaserne, Bldg. 202; DSN 466-2836, 467-2324; CIV 09802-83-2324	<b>Schweinfurt</b> Hours: M-F: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Conn Barracks, Bldg. 1 (Law Center); DSN 353-8286, CIV 09721-96-8286
<b>Bamberg</b> Hours: M - F: 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments Sat: 9-11 a.m., appointments only (only in February) Warner Barracks, Bldg. 7000 (Law Center), 4th Floor; DSN 469-8261/2, CIV 09513-00-8262	<b>Vilseck</b> Hours: M/W/F: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments T/Th: 9 a.m.-6 p.m., walk-in and scheduled appointments Rose Barracks, Bldg. 245 (Law Center), 1st Floor; DSN 476-2714, CIV 09662-83-2714.
<b>Grafenwoehr</b> Hours: T/W/Th/F: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.,	

# Attorneys-in-training learn about American legal system



Attorneys and paralegals attend training recently in Wuerzburg. The training is important for familiarizing host nation partners with the U.S. legal system.

by **Maj. JERRETT DUNLAP**  
*JMTC Office of the Staff Judge Advocate*

Attorneys and paralegals from the 7th U.S. Army Joint Multinational Training Command Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (JMTC OSJA) participated in the training of Bavarian “Referendare” (attorneys-in-training) over several weeks, recently.

This annual training is an important outreach program that familiarizes host nation partners with the U.S. legal system, while building relationships and trust.

The JMTC OSJA and its predecessors in 3rd Infantry Division and 1st Infantry Division have been providing this training to Bavarian Referendare since the 1990s through a program administered by the Bavarian Ministry of Justice. Over 250 Bavarian Referendare participated in the training, which took place in Bayreuth, Munich, Nuernberg, Regensburg and Wuerzburg.

During the morning sessions, the Bavarian Referendare were instructed on the history and structure of the U.S. legal system, with special emphasis on the procedural and evidentiary rules of U.S. courts. The Referendare were especially interested in the differences between the U.S.

and German legal systems, focusing specifically on the jury.

In German civil Law courts, judges generally fill the role of finder of fact, whereas American juries generally fill that fact-finding role in U.S. courts. Because German judges play the prominent role in civil law proceedings, the role of the German attorney during trial is not as prominent as in the U.S. legal system, where objections, aggressive cross-examination and passionate argument designed to persuade juries are well known. The Bavarian Referendare had many questions stemming from these differences. The discussion also included differences between the U.S. military and civilian court systems.

The training switched to a mock criminal trial in the afternoon, with the JMTC OSJA attorneys acting as the prosecution and defense attorneys. Referendare played the roles of bailiff, witnesses and the jury as one of their fellow law students was “tried” for drug possession. The mock trial reinforced the instruction from the morning, to the entertainment of the Referendare.

*Editor’s Note: Maj. Jerrett Dunlap is the deputy Staff Judge Advocate for JMTC’s Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.*





Photo Spc. Gilbert Madenia

Above: Soldiers of Echo Troop, 5th Cavalry, fire a 21-gun salute at the conclusion of the 172nd Infantry Brigade Memorial Ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center, Feb. 5. The 172nd Inf. Bde. honored its 10 fallen Soldiers for their honorable service to their nation.

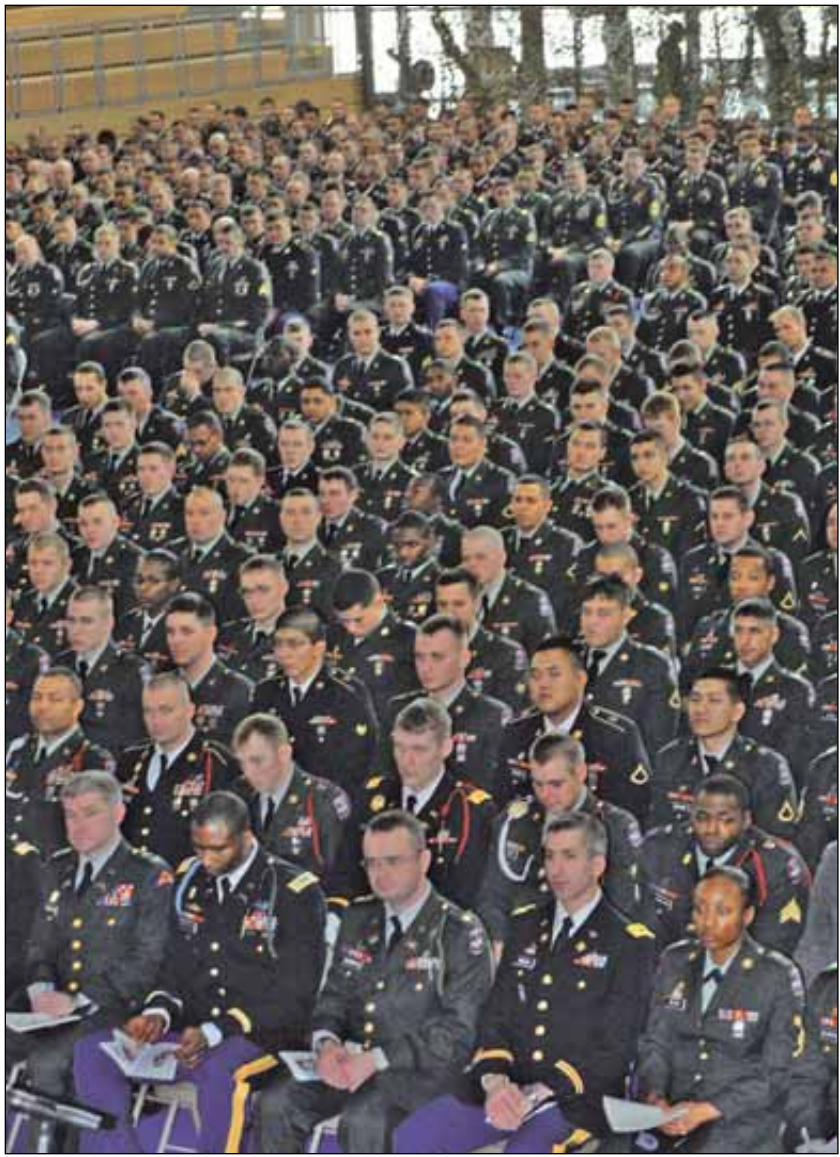


Photo by Spc. Bethany L. Little

Right: Approximately 1,000 Soldiers, family and friends gathered at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center, Feb. 5, to honor the fallen Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade. During the ceremony, a memorial was unveiled to the Soldiers in honor of their 10 fallen comrades.

# 172nd Infantry Brigade Soldiers remembered

by Spc. BETHANY L. LITTLE  
*172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs*

The 172nd Infantry Brigade “Blackhawks” remembered the life and sacrifice of their own during a memorial ceremony dedicated to the 10 Soldiers who lost their lives during the brigade’s deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Approximately 1,000 Soldiers, family members and friends of the Blackhawks gathered to pay their respects and celebrate the lives of the honored Soldiers at the Grafenwoehr Physical Fitness Center, Feb. 5.

Silence filled the auditorium as Brigade Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Rizer began the ceremony with an invocation, which was followed by a speech from keynote speaker Col. Jeffery Sinclair, 172nd Inf. Bde. commander.

“Today is a day of remembrance and closure, for the families and for us to come together and pay tribute to these Blackhawk Soldiers,” said Sinclair.

Sinclair and Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Steven McClafflin continued

the ceremony by unveiling the massive wooden memorial. Standing approximately seven feet tall, the memorial included a bronze statue of King Leonidas of ancient Sparta and a lithograph depicting Leonidas under the light of the moon as he prepared for battle against Emperor Xerxes and the Persian army.

“Much like the Spartan warriors, these Soldiers sacrificed their lives so others would not have to,” said Sinclair. “It is the Spartan’s example that inspires our Blackhawk Soldiers to strive and achieve greatness in battle and honor in victory.”

The memorial also included photographs of the fallen Soldiers with Spartan helmets at the base of each picture to remind Soldiers of the completely selfless service these heroes have given to their country.

“The memorial is very befitting,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Noe Salinas, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment. “It brings us back into history, to use a great analogy to represent what the Spartans did then to what we do now.”

“Each of these Soldiers has led from the right side of our formation,”

“I truly wish no one else has to go through this. I wouldn’t call it a growing experience, but it definitely makes you grow up quick.”

Spc. William Walker  
Rifleman, Alpha Co. 2-28th Inf. Regt.

said Sinclair. “This memorial is for them and to remind those who pass by of their selfless acts and sacrifices.”

The ceremony concluded with final honors for the fallen Soldiers. Representatives from respective units lit candles for each fallen Soldier to signify the last roll call.

Seven Soldiers from Echo Troop, 5th Cavalry fired three volleys

outside of the facility to honor the old battlefield custom of warning adversaries upon clearing their dead from the battlefield. The last of the final honors was the playing of taps by a lone bugler to represent the completion of each fallen Soldier’s honorable service to his nation.

After the ceremony, Soldiers had the opportunity to approach the memorial and pay their respects to their fallen comrades. The memorial will reside in the 172nd Inf. Bde. Headquarters, which will serve as a common ground for grieving families, brothers in arms and visitors who wish to quietly reflect on the price of freedom.

“For how much we accomplished over there, it’s a hardship to go to these functions after getting to know these guys, spending time with them and dealing with all the emotional stresses of being deployed,” said Spc. William Walker, rifleman, Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment. “I truly wish no one else has to go through this. I wouldn’t call it a growing experience, but it definitely makes you grow up quick.”

## Soldiers Remembered

- Spc. Christopher Sweet  
Feb. 6, 1981- Feb. 06, 2009
- Sgt. Jose Escobedo  
Jan. 23, 1977- March 19, 2009
- Spc. Israel Candelaria  
Feb. 26, 1981- April 5, 2009
- Sgt. Raul Mancada  
Nov. 25, 1979- April 13, 2009
- Spc. Michael Yates  
Sept. 5, 1989- May 11, 2009
- Staff Sgt. Christian Bueno-Galdos  
Aug. 16, 1983- May 11, 2009
- Cpl. David Schaefer  
March 27, 1982- May 16, 2009
- Spc. William VanOsdol  
June 13, 1986- Aug. 19, 2009
- Sgt. Christopher Cooper  
Oct. 18, 1981- Oct. 30, 2009
- Spc. Matthew Johnson  
Aug. 19, 1985- Nov. 8, 2009

# MGS helps 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment stay on target



Troopers of 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment trudge through the snow during a live-fire exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Feb. 2.

Story and photo by  
Spc. JERRY WILSON  
*2SCR Public Affairs*

Heavy snowfall and harsh winds around the Grafenwoehr Training Area of the Joint Multinational Training Command didn’t stop troopers from 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment from training for their deployment to Afghanistan. During this training, infantry squads incorporated the use of the new M1128 Stryker Mobile Gun System into their latest live-fire operation, Feb. 2.

“First Squadron has incorporated the MGS system along with the Infantry carrier vehicle,” said Staff Sgt. Donald Phillips, the 2SCR Regimental Master Gunner. “This is the first time they have done this type of training since receiving the new system in December.”

The MGS is a 105mm cannon mounted on the Stryker vehicle variant. It is the same cannon that was used on the M1A1 Abrams tank. According to Phillips, the MGS brings the firepower of a tank to an infantry fight.

Phillips said the MGS is designed for use in urban terrain and its central purpose is for Infantry support.

“It can be used to take out troops out in mass using a canister round,” he said, “or knock holes in buildings to provide a passage for troops to move through.”

“It can also take on light-armored vehicles that the Infantry may encounter,” he said.

During the exercise Infantry squads conducted assaults and room-clearing procedures while the MGS provided artillery support, and engaged simulated enemy vehicles that were preparing to ambush them.



# Leaving car unlocked against the law

Story and photo by  
**MOLLY HAYDEN**  
*Bavarian News*

On a chilly night in January while making a routine round in the Netzaberg Housing Area, the Eschenbach Polizei found 21 vehicles left unlocked and unattended, approximately every fifth car, according to a report submitted to the provost marshal. “We see this all the time,” said Pfc. David Kelley, 527th Military Police Company, adding that Netzaberg was not alone. “People have a false sense of security on government property.”

This act not only brought the threat of theft to unattended items left in the car, but fines for the car owner.

Leaving a vehicle unsecured is a violation of host nation law, USAREUR Regulation AER 190-1 and garrison policy; a violation can result in a 15 euro fine by the host nation police and a notice of violation (DD 1408), which is issued to the vehicle’s owner or operator by the military police and forwarded for command action.

The military police fully support the use of citations given by the Polizei against violators of this law, according to Master Sgt. Barry Beilhart, provost sergeant, Directorate of Emergency Services.

“We work closely with all of the surrounding Polizei stations,” said Beilhart. “(We) have a great working relationship and continue to develop our partnership.”

Unsecured, unattended vehicles in the Grafenwoehr area has lead to



**Pfc. David Kelley, 527th Military Police Company, writes a citation on an unsecured vehicle in the Netzaberg Housing Area. Numerous vehicles are found unlocked and unattended on a daily basis, which is a violation of German law.**

thousands of dollars of personal and government property being stolen every month.

If a vehicle is observed by the military police or German Polizei to have been left unsecure and items are stolen, the report will reflect that it was unsecure, which could cause problems for individuals wishing to file claims with their insurance company, according to Beilhart.

Additionally, many infractions are seen on post daily from drivers talking on cell phones without a hands-free device, passengers not wearing seat belts and cars driven with inoperable equipment including headlights and turn signals.

Beilhart stressed safety in all measures, from driving on and off post to drivers securing their

vehicles when parked. He also suggested removing expensive items from the car or placing them in hidden areas of the car or trunk if necessary.

“If no items are visible in the car, chances are that the criminals will move on to the Soldier or family member that decided to leave their stuff in the open,” said Beilhart. “Make yourself a hard target.”

# USAREUR updates installation access policy

by **ROBERT SZOSTEK**  
*USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal*  
*Public Affairs*

MANNHEIM, Germany -- Officials at the U.S. Army Europe Office of the Provost Marshal announced changes to controls for installation pass holders as a result of an update to the USAREUR installation access directive.

OPM officials stressed that the procedures for authorized ID card holders have not changed in the update to Army in Europe Regulation 190-16, which governs access to USAREUR installations.

“The regulation now requires individuals who are signed in to be escorted at all times while on the installation and then signed out when they leave,” said DuWayne Bredvik, physical security officer at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal. People with sign-in privileges are now personally responsible for the people they sign onto an installation.

“For example, it is not uncommon for people with no access to our installations to wait outside a gate and ask U.S. personnel to sign them on, saying they want to go to an on-post club,” he explained. There have been situations where a person who was signed on was left at a club and then caused an altercation to which military and local police had to respond.

In addition, Bredvik added, Force Protection Condition Bravo is now the standard threat level that applies to most installation pass categories such as contractors. In the future, sponsors of installation pass holders will have to justify why their applicants require access during times of crisis or attack -- FPCONs Charlie or Delta. Access to installations during those FPCON categories is limited to essential personnel as designated by their job descriptions.

The revision also means that host-nation military and government officials, NATO military members, and visitors will have to renew their

installation passes every two years instead of the current requirement to renew every five years, OPM officials said.

“During an audit, we discovered many installation pass holders in these categories forgot to turn in their installation pass as required when they leave,” Bredvik said.

Another change requires citizens of Cuba, Syria, Sudan and Iran to get approval from a garrison commander to enter installations under that commander’s control. For example, if a DoD family member’s parents are visiting from Iran, the family member must visit the local Installation Access Control System office before those visitors arrive to coordinate signing them onto the installation or obtaining a visitor pass. The IACS office staff will forward an access request to the garrison commander for approval.

The U.S. Department of State currently identifies Cuba, Syria, Sudan and Iran as state sponsors of terrorism.

# Community input needed for AFAP

Conference to tackle issues in Grafenwoehr, March 9-10

by **CRISTINA M. PIOSEA**  
*USAG Grafenwoehr Army Community Service*

The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) is an Army Community Service (ACS) program that allows community members to voice their concerns to Army leadership. Positive changes from past AFAP conferences include: the establishment of the B.O.S.S. program, reformed military pay table (targeted pay raises), creation of the school liaison officers, and allowing the Post 9/11 GI Bill to be transferred to dependents.

“An AFAP issue is any problem that affects the readiness and well-being of not only you, but of the entire Army,” said Simone Larson, USAG Grafenwoehr AFAP program manager. “Some issues can be resolved locally, and some must go forth for a change at higher level resolution. We are different than the ICE program and Customer Management Service.”

The AFAP was first created over 25 years ago from a group of Army spouses who volunteered to discuss issues and concerns regarding Soldiers and families and to bring the topics to leadership who could work toward resolution to improve the overall quality of life.

Each year garrisons host AFAP conferences and depend on the community to submit issues for the conferences to be successful.

“The results from the AFAP conference strengthen the Army readiness, make and change legislation and create policies and services from the ideas and issue submission by community members,” said Larson. “The yearly conference is when all issues are collected, revised and registered.”

An important aspect of the AFAP conference is the role of volunteers. Positions include facilitators, transcribers, recorders and issue support, and child care is provided for volunteers.

The AFAP mission is to assist Army leaders address the needs and concerns of the total Army family. The issues that are submitted to leaders result in changes that become realistic and part of the new Army across all garrisons.

Larson said issues that are beyond the garrison’s scope are forwarded up the chain of command to Installation Management Command. Issues that go above and beyond IMCOM are forwarded to the Department of the Army, which also holds and annual AFAP conference.

Community members can submit issues online at the garrison Web site, [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/cms.asp#afap](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/cms.asp#afap), by e-mailing [simone.larson@eur.army.com](mailto:simone.larson@eur.army.com), or calling the DSN 476-2797, CIV 09662-83-2797. The AFAP office is located on Rose Barracks, Building 221, Room 207.

In addition, yellow issue submission boxes are located in the PX, commissary and post office on Main Post and Rose Barracks.

“The issues submitted are not lost in the system and are not ignored,” Larson said.

# RETIREE CORNER

## Dual tax agreement prevents retirees living in Germany from paying taxes twice

by Retired Sgt. Maj. **DAVE STEWART**  
*Grafenwoehr Garrison Retiree Council*

Last month we laid out the first of our two articles on taxation of retiree income. This month I want to describe more of the important details associated with this unique responsibility.

A dual tax agreement exists between the United States and Germany that prevents paying taxes twice on the same income. If you are residing in Germany, you must pay German tax on all income generated on the German economy regardless of where you claim your center of life is located.

For tax purposes, U.S. citizens who have an Aufenthaltserlaubnis (German residence permit), stamped into their U.S. passport, are considered to have their center of life in Germany, even if they keep an address in the United States. If you work for the U.S. government or fall under the status of forces agreement (SOFA), after retirement, all your U.S. income is not considered generated in Germany. Therefore, you have nothing to do with the Finanzamt (German Revenue Service).

But, whether you are under SOFA or not or have German interest/dividend income, you and your spouse receive German pay or “Rente,” a German job, rental/lease income from an apartment/house/land/forest/business located in Germany, you must file taxes with the Finanzamt and declare your U.S. retirement pay, Social Security/ U.S. income such as dividends from U.S. stocks, banks, bonds and funds.

Because Germans must declare all income including their

foreign income, you are, if the above applies to you, for tax purposes treated like a German citizen.

Relax, this does not mean that you end up paying German tax on U.S. income due to the dual tax agreement, which says that if you have paid U.S. tax on your income you need not pay German tax on it again. But your U.S. income is included in your total German income to determine your tax rate.

This process is called “Progressionsvorbehalt.” You might also want to apply for a “Nichtveranlagungsbescheinigung” (called a NV, no levy of tax) at the German Finanzamt.

The NV frees you from filing German taxes. The DTA says Social Security is taxed in the country where the recipient lives. So, in order to avoid paying taxes on your Social Security in the United States again, you file IRS Form 8833 with your 1040. It is best advised to report all of your U.S. earnings to the German Finanzamt if you’re living permanently in Germany and not protected under SOFA.

Just like U.S. taxpayers, all German taxpayers have an exclusion called a Freibetrag. In addition, there are many deductions to help you reduce taxes if you end up owing German taxes. If you speak German adequately it is recommended that you purchase a German Tax Program to do your German taxes. To consult a German tax advisor often isn’t worth the expenses because most cases are not complicated.

The Grafenwoehr Legal Office can provide expert information for filing U.S. claims for retirees living permanently in Germany.

To make an appointment, call 09641-83-9258.

**Tricare Tip.** The USAG Heidelberg Retiree Council provided this valuable information for filing Tricare claims. Many of you have used Tricare in the past and have submitted a claim. Sometimes the claim was not correctly adjudicated and you had more paperwork. Here are a few tips that you may want to consider when making your next claim:

Use DD Form 2642 April 2007 and be sure to check yes in Block 13, “Payment in local currency.”

Write in the top margin above Block 1 “Patient has paid the health care provider in euros.”

Submit only one paid bill per claim. Write on the bill, “Patient has paid the health care provider in euro.”

Adding these statements may sound like overkill, but the objective is to get the correct reimbursement for the payments that you have made to the health care provider.

**Post Office Appeal.** The Grafenwoehr Postal Service Center requests that Box R holders ensure that their return address is as follows to enhance speed in delivery:

Name, Grafenwoehr Postal Service Center, Box R- #, APO AE 09114.

**Next Retiree Council Meeting.** The next Garrison Retiree Council Meeting will be conducted at USAG Grafenwoehr, March 11. This will be a closed to council meeting to discuss the way ahead for 2010. If retirees would like items addressed, please send a note to me at the Grafenwoehr PSC, Box R-6, APO AE 09114.



# Pilot program debuts at Vilseck

Story and photo by  
**JENNIFER WALSH**  
*BMEDDAC Public Affairs*

The Bavaria Medical Department Activity is offering orthopedic services to Bavaria beneficiaries as part of a 90-day pilot program running Jan. 22 – April 16 at the Vilseck Army Health Clinic.

The pilot program is a Europe Regional Medical Command initiative designed to gauge what type of demand there is for orthopedic services in Bavaria. Previously, all beneficiaries were referred to the economy or had the option to travel to another military health facility for orthopedic care.

“It’s beneficial to the patient because it’s local access to an orthopedic specialist,” said David Melaas, the orthopedic physician assistant running the clinic. “If the patient wishes to stay within the military health system, he or she can.”

According to Melaas, one of the most noteworthy parts of the orthopedic clinic is its telehealth capabilities. Telehealth allows physically separated patients and providers to discuss treatment plans using a video teleconferencing system.

“Potential is unlimited with this technology,” Melaas said. The technology is still being developed, but the possibility is there for instruments that could see into a patient’s nose or mouth. Although not required for orthopedic evaluation, Melaas said this could be used by other professions or for preoperative anesthesia consultation if needed.

This relatively new technology is being offered for orthopedic patients who may need surgery, which is typically done at the Heidelberg Health Center or Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. By using this technology, patients save themselves an average of three to four trips to Heidelberg or LRMC because they have their appointments locally with the orthopedic physician assistant and connect with their surgeon using the video teleconferencing system.

“We’ve had three patients go through the process, and they love it because they don’t have to travel three hours away,” said Sgt. Jacob Bacahui, orthopedic technician.

According to Bacahui, the telehealth program also benefits the Soldier’s unit because it saves the unit from supplying a driver each time the Soldier would have a presurgery appointment in



**Sgt. Jacob Bacahui, orthopedic technician, and members of the Vilseck Health Clinic demonstrate how the telehealth system works at the orthopedic clinic, Feb. 3. The clinic is offering orthopedic services to beneficiaries in Bavaria, Jan. 22–April 16.**

Heidelberg or LRMC. Appointments following surgery would also be conducted locally.

“Their first post-op appointment would be here with me,” Melaas said. “If there are problems, I can always pull up the surgeon in Heidelberg using the VTC machine so he can see the patient.”

Bacahui also said there are processes in place to help protect a patient’s personal information while using the video teleconferencing system.

“The electronic signal is secure and it’s encrypted,” Bacahui said.

Patients are briefed on the electronic system and must sign a consent form before consulting with a provider using the video teleconferencing system.

In addition to its telehealth capabilities, the orthopedic clinic also provides services such as: ordering and interpreting X-rays, magnetic resonance images and computed tomography; referring patients to physical therapy and pain management; splinting and casting fractures; and prescribing medications.

The orthopedic clinic is currently open to

all service members in the Bavaria footprint. However, certain family members also qualify for treatment.

“Right now, it’s only for active duty patients until we get an idea of what the demand is,” Melaas said. “However, it is open to family members who have acute fractures that are nonoperative. We can manage those patients with splinting or casting here instead of sending them on the economy.”

At the end of the 90-day pilot program, Melaas said ERM and BMEDDAC officials will look at the data and determine if they want to offer orthopedic services permanently.

“It just depends on the demand and if patients see a benefit to the services,” Melaas said.

Beneficiaries interested in using the orthopedic clinic should contact their primary care manager for a referral.

*Editor’s Note: If you’ve experienced the telehealth program and want to share your story with the community, contact BMEDDAC Public Affairs at DSN 476-4605, CIV 09662-83-4605.*

# Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic opens

by **JENNIFER WALSH**  
*BMEDDAC Public Affairs*

The Bavaria Medical Department Activity cut the ribbon on its new mild Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic on Rose Barracks, Feb. 10.

“With the opening of this clinic, we are taking the quality of health care we provide to our Soldiers and families to the next level,” said Col. Steven Brewster, BMEDDAC commander. “I’m talking about more resources for the healing process and more access to care.”

The mTBI program in Bavaria is part of a larger Europe Regional Medical Command mTBI project and has been in the works since September 2007.

According to Dr. Anne Felde, the mTBI program clinical director, basic mTBI services were available to the Grafenwoehr community for the past year. However, she said the resources that accompany the new clinic, such as new state-of-the-art equipment, are going to be essential in the diagnosis and treatment process.

“We’ll be getting a computerized driving simulator that will allow us to assess reaction time, attention, visual field and driving behaviors that can be impaired in Soldiers who have experienced a concussion,”

Felde said.

The clinic will also house a variety of equipment designed to diagnose and treat mTBI symptoms, such as a Biodex Balance System that addresses balance and coordination problems, and a DynaVision machine that focuses on problems with visual memory and attention.

“This is all specialty equipment that we haven’t had up until now,” Felde said.

The equipment isn’t the only new thing in the clinic. Several specialists, such as a neurologist and a speech and language pathologist are also new additions.

“Providing our own neurological assessment, when patients previously went to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, is a big part of the program,” Felde said. “And our speech and language pathologist - who is the only one available to see service members in Bavaria - is able to help assess and treat communication disorders.”

Other mTBI staff members include: a nurse case manager, occupational therapist, physical therapist, psychiatrist, psychologist and a social worker.

The clinic also has telehealth capabilities, which means other mTBI patients in Bavaria can

consult with certain providers at the mTBI clinic on Rose Barracks using a video teleconferencing system.

“This technology allows us to provide health care to patients who would otherwise have to drive some distance to get to us,” Felde said. “For example, we would do the initial visit with our neurologist in person and subsequent follow up visits are arranged through telehealth.”

Although the telehealth program is currently only available for neurology, the clinic plans on expanding those services in the future.

The clinic’s services are available for all military beneficiaries. However, Felde expects to primarily see Soldiers who experienced a concussion while deployed.

“We typically see Soldiers who have returned from deployment who have persisting problems that originated at the time of a concussion, usually related to a blast,” Felde said. “With such a frequently deploying infantry population, it’s necessary for us to have a program that can adequately treat these concussion-related problems.”

Common problems include: chronic headaches; memory problems; concentration problems; dizziness; hearing loss; chronic

ringing in the ears; sleeping problems; nightmares; trouble feeling warm or caring toward family members; feeling anger or numbness; marital problems; or a variety of emotional problems.

Felde also stressed that having mTBI is not the same as having Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

“Some of the Soldiers we treat have PTSD, but many of our Soldiers do not,” Felde said. “They may have deployment-related stress, but we don’t diagnose them with PTSD unless they meet all of the criteria.”

Overall, Felde said they’re just trying to take care of Soldiers and their families.

“Our goal is to provide easy access to care, thorough screenings of at-risk populations, and intensive outpatient rehabilitation for mTBI-related problems,” Felde said.

Active duty service members can self-refer and can contact the clinic directly at DSN 476-4770, CIV 09662-83-4770. Family members with a primary care manager should ask their PCM for a referral to the clinic. Other beneficiaries who do not have a primary care manager at a military health facility should contact the clinic’s nurse case manager at DSN 476-4765, CIV 09662-83-4765.

# February focus, preventing childhood cavities

by **Col. THERESA S. GONZALES**  
*BDENTAC*

February is officially designated as Children’s Dental Health Month. What began as a one-day event in 1941 in Cleveland, Ohio, has evolved into a monthlong national celebration. This health promotion campaign is dedicated to stimulating public awareness of the significance of good dental health and prevention of dental disease in our most valuable but vulnerable

citizens – our children.

Dental caries, or “cavities” as they are commonly known, is the most prevalent human disease and it is completely preventable. Recent studies have shown that tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood – five times more common than asthma and seven times more chronic than hay fever. It is a widespread, chronic infectious disease that affects the hard tissues of the teeth. By 17 years of age, almost 80 percent of Americans have had

a cavity. While the overall burden and severity of dental caries in children and adolescents has steadily declined in the last 30 years, the disease is still highly prevalent and severe among low-income Americans.

One of the most important factors related to the development of dental caries is the consumption of carbohydrates or sugar. In truth, the development of dental caries depends more on how often a child consumes sugary foods

See DENTAL, page 25

# a shot of advice



by **Lt. Col. STEPHEN LINCK**  
*BMEDDAC*

**Q.** Sir, if I have a limited profile for shaving. Is there another option? Even when I do let my hair grow out I still break out very badly! What should my next step be?

Thanks, Itchy in Illesheim

**A.** Dear Itchy,



**Linck**

What you are describing sounds like Pseudofolliculitis Barbae or PFB for short. This is a problem seen most commonly in men of African-American descent. The problem is caused when the beard is shaved too close and the hair gets entrapped under the skin. The problem is usually solved with a shaving profile, which allows the hair to stay longer than the follicle.

If you still have problems, there are some simple steps you can take. One of which is to gently lift the in-growing hair ends out of the skin. Hair release treatment is probably the single, most important treatment for this disorder.

If there is no in-growing hair, there is no inflammation. This should be performed regularly – daily or every other day – in a systematic way. Basically, gently lift the hair with a sharp toothpick or clean needle. If this does not work, you may require topical or oral medications. Severe cases may even require a consult to a dermatologist. Your primary care manager can tell you more.

**Q.** How does a person regain strength from a bleeding ulcer? Respectfully, Struggling in Schweinfurt

**A.** Dear Struggling in Schweinfurt,

From the sound of your question, you sound anemic. The most important thing is to eat food high in iron. Think of red blood cells as the trucks that transport oxygen to your body. Without enough transport to get oxygen to your body, some of the cells go hungry.

Iron is an essential element that makes up red blood cells. Red meats are high in iron. If you are a vegetarian, many leafy green vegetables like spinach are high in iron as well.

Other important elements for recovery are time, rest and plenty of fluids. Your clinic can order blood tests to see if you are anemic and offer additional treatment as indicated. Good luck and try not to worry.

**Q.** Is it true that if I wear two condoms when I have sex that it’s less likely I’ll get a girl pregnant?

Thanks, Trying not to be a baby daddy in Grafenwoehr

**A.** Dear Trying not to be a baby daddy in Grafenwoehr,

I applaud you for taking responsibility, but the answer is no. The best thing you can do is follow the instructions on the package.

Wearing two condoms only increases the possibility that they won’t fit right and will increase the possibility of product failure.

If you are really concerned, I recommend using condoms that are lubricated with spermicide. Spermicidal-lubricated condoms are commonly available, documented to be safe and effective when used correctly. It is not only important to dress for the occasion, but to dress correctly.

*If you need a shot of advice, e-mail your question to brmc-pao@amedd.army.mil.*



# What's Happening

## Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Briefs

### Warrior University Courses

Warrior University is an initiative by the JMTC commanding general and the USAG Grafenwoehr commander to provide Soldiers the opportunity to take college courses during duty hours.

These courses will be open to family members and other eligible ID card holders as well. Warrior University courses are in addition to normally scheduled college courses each term.

The University of Maryland University College (UMUC) and Central Texas College (CTC) will be providing the courses which will meet on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday from 2-5 p.m.

The courses will run from March 1-April 22. Courses to be offered include general education courses (sociology, philosophy, history, speech, government, and German) and two criminal justice courses.

The courses will be available for registration beginning Feb. 9. Soldiers interested in the program should begin visiting the education center now to set up their GoArmyEd tuition assistance accounts.

Family members and other eligible ID card holders should contact the UMUC or CTC college representatives to register/pay for the classes.

Main Post Education Center (Bldg. 538), DSN 475-6219/6786; Vilseck Education Center (Bldg. 223), DSN 476-2753; UMUC, DSN 475-6106/476-2462; CTC, DSN 475-6702/476-2362.

### Community Huddle

The Community Huddle, Feb. 25, is a new monthly meeting for all community members that combines previous meetings (town hall, Senior Spouses Roundtable). Hosted by Col. Chris Sorenson, USAG Grafenwoehr commander, the second Community Huddle will be held 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Tower View Restaurant, Main Post, Bldg. 209.

It's an opportunity for you to find out the latest info on programs, events, construction updates, and other important issues.

Garrison directors and subject matter experts will brief topics and answer questions. Mark your calendars and join us -- you can make a difference in your community.

### Celebrating diversity

Know someone in the JMTC community whose diverse talents and experiences make this a great place to live, work and train?

Nominate them to be a 2010 Excellence through Diversity Representative.

Monthly selectees will share their stories and represent the command on AFN TV and radio, in the *Bavarian News* and JMTC promotional materials. For more, visit [www.hqjmtc.army.mil](http://www.hqjmtc.army.mil).

### Virtual Training Facility

Regional Training Support Center Grafenwoehr invites the public to the Virtual Device Training Facility (VDTF) ribbon cutting ceremony and training capabilities open house, Feb. 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

We will demonstrate some of the latest Home Station Training enablers and virtual devices on Camp Algiers, Grafenwoehr. Various demonstrations, including Reconfigurable Vehicle Tactical Trainer, Human Control Cell and Virtual Battle Space 2 will be held in Bldgs. 1400, 1404 and 1420. For more, call DSN 476-2486.

### Sunshine Brunch

Single Ladies! Are tired of the snow? Do you feel the need for some sunshine? Come to a Sunshine Brunch and lift your spirits. The event, Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., is sponsored by the garrison Chaplain's Office and located in Bldg. 301 on Vilseck (South Camp).

There will be great food, door prizes and all things reminiscent of summer.

Dig out your favorite summer outfit and join the party! RSVP with Laurel Hoyt at 0151-14991395, or [laurel.hoyt@cadence.org](mailto:laurel.hoyt@cadence.org).

### Vendors wanted

The Vilseck Community and Spouses Club is hosting a Spring Arts & Crafts Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Multipurpose Center (Bldg. 134) on Rose Barracks, Vilseck. Spaces are limited and cost \$20 each. Sign up ASAP to ensure your space.

We are currently seeking US ID Card Holders selling all types of handcrafted works including paintings, pottery, jewelry, handbags, accessories, clothing, toys and more. If you make it, you can sell it.

For vendor applications or more information, contact Christina Vaughn at [vcscmail1@yahoo.com](mailto:vcscmail1@yahoo.com).

### Thrift Store help wanted

Hidden Treasures Thrift Store on Rose Barracks has a manager position available. Applications are available at the Hidden Treasures Thrift Shop or online at [www.vcsconline.com](http://www.vcsconline.com).

Prior retail management experience preferred. Excellent hours, Tuesday-Thursday and every 2nd Saturday of the month from 9:30am-2:30pm.

### Drawing contest

The Grafenwoehr Dental Clinic is sponsoring a drawing contest for Children's Dental Health Month.

Grafenwoehr and Netzbarg Elementary students are eligible to participate by drawing a design on a standard sheet of paper that encourages kids to have a healthy mouth.

Bring your design with your name, grade, home phone number and parent's e-mail address written on the back to the front desk of the Grafenwoehr Dental Clinic (Bldg. 475) by March 1.

One winner and one runner-up per grade will receive prizes from AAFES.

For more, contact DSN 475-1720, CIV 09641-83-1720.

### AER Campaign

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) program will begin on March 1, and go to May 15.

More than \$83 million in AER assistance in 2009 was provided to more than 71,000 Soldiers and their families.

AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of Soldiers.

All units within USAG Grafenwoehr geographic footprint are requested to provide AER representatives. The USAG Grafenwoehr Battalion S1 will be hosting a special training session for all AER unit representatives March 8, at 9 a.m. in Grafenwoehr Bldg. 244, Room 219.

Training will last approximately 1.5 hours. All AER representatives should attend this training.

For more, contact Christine Nunez, DSN 475-8432 or e-mail [christine.nunez@eur.army.mil](mailto:christine.nunez@eur.army.mil).

## Hohenfels Briefs

### Munich Trip

If you need a day to escape the cold and relax by the pool, Galaxy Erding is waiting for you to enjoy the sun and fun. The bus will depart Hohenfels Feb. 20 from the CAC, Bldg. 40, at 8 a.m. and will return to Hohenfels around 5 p.m.

The cost is \$60 per person and includes transportation and entry fee into Galaxy Erding. Seating is limited to 50 people.

For more information and to reserve your seats call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

### Half day snowshoe hike

Enjoy a three hour hike in the Bavarian Forest near Dreisselberg, Feb. 20. The bus will depart from Hohenfels Outdoor Recreation at 10 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m.

Cost is \$70 per person and includes transportation, equipment and tour. Seating is limited to the first 14 customers.

For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

### Youth winter sports trip

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join Youth Programs for a ski, snowboarding and sledding trip in Gross Arber, Feb. 20.

The cost is \$60 and includes basic ski instruction, lift ticket and equipment. Youth must be able to attend equipment fitting and brief at ODR, Feb. 18 at 4 p.m.

Youth will need a special permission slip and must be registered with CYSS. Sign up at Bldg. 72 by Feb. 10. For more, call DSN 466-4492, CIV 09472-83-4492.

### Teen pizza, movie night

Monthly pizza and movie night will be held at the Teen Center, Feb. 26 from 6:30-11 p.m. for youth in grades 7-12. The cost is \$3 per person. For more, call DSN 466-3646, CIV 09472-83-3646.

### Ski Trip to Reit im Winkl

Join Outdoor Recreation for a one-day trip offering alpine and cross country skiing, hiking and more, Feb. 27.

The bus will depart from Hohenfels ODR at 5:30 a.m. and will return at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under.

Discounts are offered to groups of five or more and for those with season rentals. Seating is limited to the first 14 customers.

For more, call DSN 466-2060, CIV 09472-83-2060.

### 1,000 Pound Club

Show your strength and lift your way into the USAG Hohenfels 1,000 Pound Club, Feb. 27.

Complete any combination of three events (bench press, squat, dead lift) totaling more than 1,000 pounds. All participants that successfully join the 1000 Pound Club will receive a T-shirt and bragging rights.

Competition is free and open to all U.S. ID card holders. The event will take place at the Post Gym, Bldg. 88, starting at 11 a.m.

For more, call DSN 466-2883, CIV 09472-83-2883.

### Racquetball tournament

Players of all skill levels are encouraged to participate in the tournament at the Post Gym, Bldg. 88, March 1-12. The entry fee is \$10 per person; space is limited to the first 16 players to register.

For more, call DSN 466-2883, CIV 09472-83-2883, or e-mail [dlmwrhohenfelsports@eur.army.mil](mailto:dlmwrhohenfelsports@eur.army.mil).

### Pink Party at the CAC

Youth Programs is partnering with PTO to host a Pink Party Feb. 19 at the CAC, 7-11 p.m., for teens in grades 9-12.

The entrance fee is \$5 and teens should bring extra money for refreshments. A DJ will be providing entertainment.

For more, call DSN 466-4492, CIV 09472-83-4492.

### The Eclectic Book Club

The Eclectic Book Club, for men and women ages 18 and older, meets on the last Monday of each month from 5-6 p.m., Feb. 22.

The December/January book is Anna Karenina by Tolstoy.

For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

### Super Hero party

Super Hero party is a fun event to encourage reading for boys ages 3-7 years.

The event will be held Feb. 24 from 3-4:30 p.m. at the library.

For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

### Games Unplugged

Enjoy a good, old-fashioned afternoon of fun at the library, Feb. 27.

Families of all ages are welcome to play board games and card games, from 4-6 p.m.

For more, call DSN 466-1740, CIV 09472-83-1740.

### First Aid course

A CPR/First Aid course will be held Feb. 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Bldg. 10. The cost is \$40.

For more information stop by the Red Cross office, Bldg. 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e-mail [dustmand@usa.redcross.org](mailto:dustmand@usa.redcross.org) or call DSN 466-1760, CIV 09472-83-1760.

## Garmisch Briefs

### Garmisch FMWR Trips

For more on any of these FMWR trips, contact the Garmisch Outdoor Recreation Alpine Experts at DSN 440-2638, CIV 08821-750-2638.

### Neuschwanstein Castle

Visit the most popular tourist attraction in Germany, Neuschwanstein Castle, along with the castle town of Fussen, the Wieskirche, and Ettal Monastery, Feb. 21, and Mar. 21.

Meet at the Burke Lodge at 8 a.m. Cost is \$39.

### Munich and the Third Reich

Two trips coming up, Feb. 26 & 28 and Apr. 9 & 11.

Start with a video presentation and a geographical and historical orientation in the Pete Burke Community Center on Friday evening, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

On Sunday, Feb. 28, we meet at the Garmisch train station just before 8 a.m. to travel to Munich, recreate the Bier Hall Putsch exactly as it happened in 1923, have lunch, and visit the site of the Munich Accords (where Czechoslovakia ceased to associate with the Nazi movement). Cost is \$35.

### Pool & Gorge

Visit the Partnachklamm, one of the most beautiful natural attractions in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Feb. 27 and again April 10.

Hear about the 1936 Olympics in Garmisch at the ski jumping stadium. Then finish the day at the Alpstizze Wellenbad, the town's largest swimming pool. Cost is \$22.

### Brewery of the Month

Come take a guided tour of the German Hops Museum and sample seven different British ales, many of them not available outside of the UK, with Dr. Christoph Pinzel and his staff of Bier-sommeliers. Depart Feb. 27 at 10 a.m., return 6 p.m.

Spaces limited, call for availability. Cost is \$55.

### Waterworld - March 20

If you thought "Water Works," is only a semidesirable property in Monopoly you might be wondering how does it work? Trust us! Water does Work!

Water can be extremely therapeutic, relaxing, calming, exhilarating, and lots of good fun! We are speaking of the absolute Disney-like Waterworld known as the Erdinger Therme!

Sign up as soon as possible! Cost is \$15 plus entrance into the Therme.



**USAG Grafenwoehr**

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Unit Level League Sign-Up**

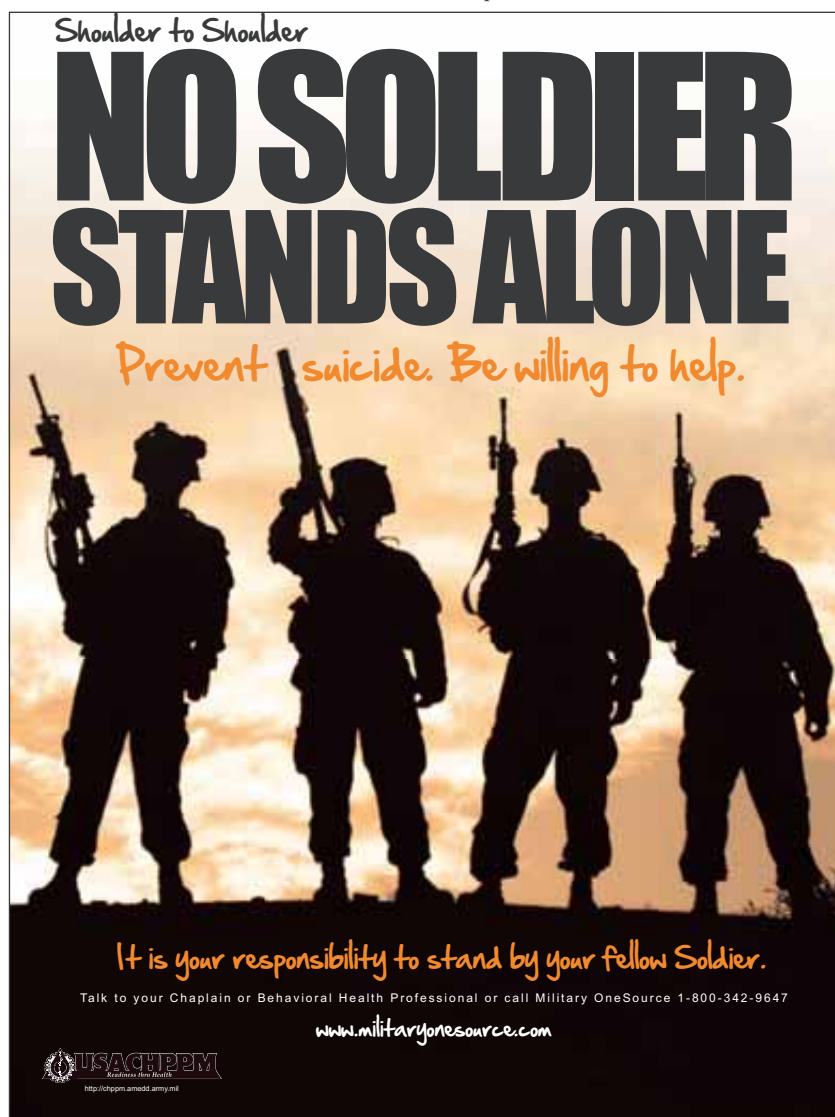
**February 1-28**

**Register At Your Local Sports Office**

**For More Info Call the Main Post Sports office at DSN: 475-9024/9007**

**Rose Barracks Sports Office DSN: 476-2214/2998**

**MWR**



**Shoulder to Shoulder**

**NO SOLDIER STANDS ALONE**

*Prevent suicide. Be willing to help.*

*It is your responsibility to stand by your fellow Soldier.*

Talk to your Chaplain or Behavioral Health Professional or call Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

**USAG Hohenfels**

<http://hohenfels.army.mil>



# What’s Happening

## Garmisch (continued)

### Othello, April 7

Enjoy the experience of William Shakespeare! A 50-minute nonintimidating talk on one of the greatest of all Shakespeare’s plays. Then view the much-acclaimed video version of the play which stars Laurence Fishburne, Kenneth Branagh and Irene Jacob. Cost is \$5.

### Amsterdam, April 15-18

Head to Holland to see the tulips! We will see Rembrandts, Vermeers and Van Goghs. See the Anne Frank House, take a boat ride on the canals, catch up on films in English or people watch at one of the many quaint cafes lining the canals. Cost is \$450 for adults, \$390 for children.

### Brewery of the Month

Visit a monastery brewery at Weltenburg April 17, the oldest still existing brewery in the world. With its modern equipment the brewery is not only a technical jewel – but, with its Jurassic spring water and an ancient brewing recipe following the Benedictine tradition – these elements, combined in a perfect production process, emphasizes the outstanding quality of this 2008 World Cup Gold medal winning beer. Cost is \$39.

### Weekend Tour to Venice

View great art, architecture, the pigeons in St. Mark’s Square, gondolas, and more April 23-25. In addition, we tour Verona, the Romeo and Juliet city with the great Roman Arena and a wonderful restaurant. Cost is \$290 for the weekend. Plan to bring 120-140 euros to cover museum entrances, food, public transportation and souvenirs.

### Operas, concerts in Munich

Thursday, Feb. 25 – Opera; the Tragedy of the Devil  
Tuesday, March 2 – Symphony; Wagner, Bloch, Ravel and Debussy  
Wednesday, March 3 – Opera; Edita Gruberova singing Donizetti’s Roberto Devereux  
Tuesday, April 13 – Symphony; Beethoven and Brahms  
Tickets prices for operas are 9-100 euros and tickets to concerts range from 5-53 euros. FMWR runs a bus to the performance for the cost of \$12. If the bus is not full of concert or opera goers, the remaining seats will be sold to people who just want catch a movie, dine out or just experience the charm Munich.

## Ansbach Briefs

### Traffic Experiment

The Schweinfurt Conn East Gate is currently undergoing an experimental traffic control plan. This plan will try to increase the amount of traffic flow during the morning in the direction the bulk of the cars are traveling (i.e. before PT more traffic is let on post and after PT more traffic is let off post).  
Pond security guards will take control of the traffic light to stay green for the desired direction until a vehicle arrives at the gate to travel in the opposite direction. Established times:  
• 5:30 - 7 a.m., Mon - Fri, traffic light will favor inbound vehicles  
• 7- 7:30 a.m., Mon - Fri, traffic light will operate at normal intervals  
• 7:30 - 8 a.m., Mon - Fri, traffic light will favor outbound vehicles.  
After 8 a.m., the traffic light will operate at normal intervals for the rest of the duty day. This plan is temporary and will no doubt inconvenience the few drivers who need to use the gate against the flow of traffic during the specified times, but the intent is to serve the majority of people trying to get to PT in the morning and then leave afterward.

### Barton Barracks access

The Barton Barracks access control point has changed temporarily for a few months due to construction at the old ACP. The temporary entry point during construction is the gate with the iron arch. Watch for signs on Meinhardswindener Str. to begin entering Barton Barracks at the temporary gate. Pedestrians will have access to the old ACP gate from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. There is a temporary gravel walkway that goes around the construction site allowing pedestrians access to and from the school. The pedestrian gate between the DoDDs and DOL buildings will be closed during the entirety of the construction, which is expected to last through July.

Residents’ patience is requested while conditions are being improved.

### Winter driving classes

For those that are new to driving in this environment, the garrison safety office highly recommends attending a winter driving safety class and ensuring your vehicle has a winter safety inspection. Classes are offered at both Katterbach Kaserne and Storck Barracks next week during the day and in the evening. Register by calling the Installation Operations Center at 468-7848.

This class is short, about 30 minutes, but packed with helpful winter driving tips. The class can be brought to a FRG meeting or other organization by calling the same number and coordinating for a time and place.

### Debt notifications

People who owe money to, or were owed money by Pfc. Michael Jarrett of D Company, 2-159th ARB in Illesheim, should contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Laura Clarke at DSN 467-4962, CIV 01515-234-7399. A list of such accounts will be given to Pfc. Jarrett’s legal guardians.  
People who owe money to, or were owed money by Pfc. Scott Barnett of 412th ASB, Headquarters Company in Ansbach should contact 2nd Lt. Tarrance Copeland at DSN 467-2904, CIV 0152-244-60804.

## Schweinfurt Briefs

### Concessionaire wanted

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt is looking for a concessionaire to operate the snack bar at the Kessler Bowling Center on Ledward Barracks, Kessler Field, Bldg. 449 at USAG Schweinfurt. The concessionaire will be responsible to provide food, beverages and catering services for special events.  
For more details or if you are interested in receiving a solicitation package, contact Claudia Fink via e-mail at claudia.fink4@us.army.mil or via fax at 0631-411-8135 by Feb. 22.

### Black History Month lunch

The Ledward Library invites everyone to a free lunch for Black History Month on Feb. 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop to learn about African American heritage and mingle with others from the community. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

### Fasching parade

To celebrate the German Fasching, the Ledward Library offers bus rides to the Schweinfurt Fasching parade on Feb. 16. Call now to reserve your set on the bus. For more, call CIV 354-1740, DSN 09721-96-1740.

### Library Book Club

The Ledward Library invites you to the next meeting of their adult book club, Feb. 24, beginning at 5:15 p.m. The book title is TBA. Coffee, tea and treats will be served. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

### Right Arm Night

The U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt invites everyone to come out for the Right Arm Night, Feb. 18, starting at 4 p.m. at the Irish Pub located downstairs in the Conn Community Conference Center. For more, call DSN 354-6186, CIV 09721-96-6186.

### Freedom Quilt

In honor of Black History Month, the Ledward Crafts Studio holds freedom quilting sessions every Wednesday in February from 6-9 p.m. Learn how to make a quilt squares and complete an entire freedom quilt. For more, call DSN 354-6903, CIV 09721-96-6903.

### Easter Market Trips

The Ledward Crafts Studio offers a trip to the Easter Market at Kloster Eberbach, Feb. 28. Transportation is provided departing the crafts studio at 8 a.m. and returning at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5. For more, call DSN 354-6903, CIV 09721-96-6903.

### Fitness classes

Keep an eye out for the many fitness classes offered by the Finney and Kessler Fitness Centers including bootcamp spinning and Pilates. Those interested can request circuit training, fitness equipment orientation, and pre- and post-natal fitness training in addition to the numerous classes held daily. For more information, call CIV 09721-96-8234 for Finney Fitness Center and CIV 09721-96-6735.

### Volleyball registration

Community volleyball registration is now available through Feb. 25. All ID cardholders ages 18 and over are welcome to participate. Season begins March 15 with games played on week-

ends. To register, contact Finney Fitness Center. For more, call DSN 354-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

### Soccer season starts

The unit-level soccer season is right around the corner. Registration begins March 1. All military service members are welcome to participate. To register, contact Finney Fitness Center. For more, call DSN 354-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

### Softball/Baseball registration

The Child, Youth, and School Services invites children ages 3 to 18 to register for the upcoming Softball/Baseball season from Feb. 22 to March 26 at CYSS Central Registration on Ledward Barracks, Bldg. 224. Participants must have current CYS Services Registration and sports physical. For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

### Volleyball tournament

Registration is open now for those interested in competing in a four-on-four volleyball tournament. Each team will have a 16-player limit.

The tournament will be held Feb. 28 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 25. All ID cardholders 18 years and older are invited to play. For more, call DSN 353-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

### Youth soccer registration

Register now for youth soccer. Cost is \$25 for ages 3-5 and \$30 for ages 6-18. Participants must have current CYS Services registration and sports physical. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 19. Call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09721-96-6517.

### Community theatre

The Schweinfurt community theatre presents “The Rocky Horror Show” at the Abrams Entertainment Center, Feb. 18 through 20, 25 and 27 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 19, 20, 26 and 27 at noon. For tickets, call CIV 0162-296-2776 or e-mail garland.travis@eur.army.mil.

### Single Soldier Dinner

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program (BOSS) invites you to a single Soldier dinner on March 3 at 6 p.m. at Finney Rec. Center. For more, call DSN 353-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

### Treasurer training

Find out the responsibilities of being a treasurer at Army Community Service’s class “Treasurer training” at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Feb. 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Learn how to run a ledger, a monthly report of funds, and

more. Call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

### Write a civilian resume

For those who are job searching or updating their resume, attend Army Community Service’s class, Civilian Resume 101, Feb. 18 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. This computer workshop will provide information on the three most common types of civilian resumes. Other topics discussed include how to write a cover letter and thank you letter. For more, call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

### Write a federal resume

For U.S. ID cardholders who want to apply for a federal job or update their current resume, attend Army Community Service’s class, Federal Resume 101, Feb. 25 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The participants will learn about Civilian Personnel On-Line (CPOL), the Resume Builder (Resumix) and the “ANSWER” System. For more, call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

### Socialize at the Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town? The Army Community Service monthly Lunch Bunch is the perfect fit. Join Schweinfurt’s Lunch Bunch, Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Experience a little of the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome! Please bring euro for lunch.

Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

### SKIES Unlimited

The School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration, and Skills, or SKIES, offers countless opportunities for the youth of Schweinfurt to get involved, learn a new talent, or improve an old one. Youth of all ages have options of ballet, choir, guitar, karate, horseback riding, scuba diving, and much more.

For more details, call DSN 354-6460, CIV 09721-96-6460.

### Schweinfurt homeschoolers

Parents and children of the Schweinfurt homeschooling community are invited to attend a monthly meeting, the next meeting will be held on March 2 at the Kessler Bowling Center from 1 to 3 p.m. This is a great way for parents and children to share ideas and meet other homeschooling families in the community. For more information, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

# AUTO SKILLS CLASSES

EACH CLASS MEETS ON THURSDAY FROM 7-8 P.M.  
CLASSES COVER FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS OF EACH TOPIC:



WELDING II  
FEBRUARY 18

DISC BRAKES  
MARCH 4

DRUM BRAKES  
MARCH 18

TIRES DEFINED  
APRIL 1

ENGINE BASICS  
APRIL 15

## USAG SCHWEINFURT AUTO SKILLS CENTER

CONN BARRACKS, BLDG. 49  
CIV: 09721-96-8224  
DSN: 353-8224

TUESDAY-FRIDAY: 1-9 P.M.  
SATURDAY: 9 A.M.-5 P.M.  
CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY


Free and open to all ID cardholders!



# COMMUNITY THEATRE


2010 SEASON

Garland Travis Entertainment Director | Stephen Connolly Music/Theatre Assistant



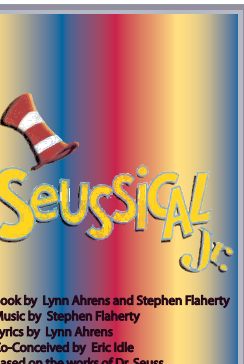
**THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**  
u.s. Military Community World Premiere  
Book, Music & Lyrics by RICHARD O'BRIEN

**FEBRUARY 18-20 & 25-27, 7 P.M.**  
**FEBRUARY 19, 20, 26 & 27, 12 A.M.**  
Tickets: \$12 • Adults Only



**P.S. Your Cat is Dead!**  
by JAMES KIRKWOOD

**AUDITIONS**  
**JANUARY 26-27, 5 P.M.**  
Roles: Adults (3 Males & 1 Female)



**Seussical Jr.**  
Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty  
Music by Stephen Flaherty  
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens  
Co-Conceived by Eric Idle  
Based on the works of Dr. Seuss

**AUDITIONS**  
**APRIL 13, 5 P.M.**  
Roles: Youth ages 10-18



For more information, call 0162-296-2776 or email garland.travis@eur.army.mil.

# COMMUNITY THEATRE

USAG SCHWEINFURT

# ABRAMS

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER







The Haghia Sophia was originally built in 532 as a Byzantine church and converted by the Ottomans into a mosque in the 15th century. It is currently a museum open to tourists and remains one of the gems of Istanbul with an interior covered in gold and a several stories high ceiling.

Story and photo by  
**KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

Located literally where East meets West — the city straddles the Bosphorus strait that splits Europe and Asia — Istanbul, Turkey has spent much of its more than 2,500-year history as the fulcrum about which European and Asian history developed.

Known early-on as Byzantium, then as Constantinople and finally as Istanbul, throughout its history the city changed hands multiple times between the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans.

This back and forth between East and West, Christianity and Islam left a kaleidoscope of historical markers that can still be seen throughout the city.

For present-day visitors, Haghia Sophia is perhaps the best place to begin exploring the many different cultures that shaped

the city’s past.

One of Istanbul’s most famous structures, construction on the Haghia Sophia as it appears today began in 532 AD upon the ruins one of Constantine’s churches. When the Ottomans took the city in the 15th century they converted the church into a mosque, adding the minarets and tombs that remain today. Characterized by a dusty-rose edifice and an interior covered in gold with a stories-high ceiling, the entrance fee is well worth it to see one of the foremost architectural achievements of the first millennium. To learn even more about this gem, hire one of the tour guides that advertize their services inside the gates. If you hire one of the personal guides, be sure to negotiate the price ahead of time, including whether the quote is for each person or your entire group.

Directly across the lawn from the Haghia Sophia is Istanbul’s second major architectural treasure, the Blue Mosque. Built in the early 1600s, the view from the front of the mosque is of the waves upon waves of domes that increase in size as they reach toward the sky. The call to prayer from one of the six minarets permeates the city several times a day, a sound visitors will not soon forget.

Visitors can only enter the mosque at certain times, so be sure to check the week’s events beforehand. To enter the mosque women are requested to cover their knees and head, and everyone must remove their shoes.

Be respectful about taking pictures as the mosque is still actively used for worship and there are often people inside praying.

Near the Blue Mosque is the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts where exhibits guide visitors through the various geographical areas of the Muslim world with explanations of artifacts in both Turkish and English. Though a small museum, it nevertheless holds magnificent examples of centuries old Ottoman rugs and many other artifacts and is worth a look.

After exploring thousands of years of history in the museum, explore the more recent history

of the Ottoman Sultans and their concubines at Topkapi Palace. Allot at least two to three hours to explore the many buildings of this luxurious compound and be sure to pay the extra fee for entrance into the Harem. By far the most interesting part of the palace, the Harem was composed of the sultan’s wives, concubines and children who lived in a complex hierarchy that is reflected in the Harem’s architecture. It is hard to decide which is more fascinating: learning about the workings of the harem itself, or the intricate artwork found in every detail of the buildings to include the floors and the insides bookshelves.

When you finish investigating Istanbul’s past, don’t forget to visit one of its present-day icons by exploring one of its many bazaars.

The Grand Bazaar is unlike anything in America and is a must-see even if you don’t plan on purchasing anything. A seemingly endless and dizzying compilation of corridors, the bazaar is home to hundreds of tiny shops that are packed with goods that spill into the streets. Your senses will be completely overwhelmed as you take in the colors of rugs, ceramics and antiques, the smells of tea, coffee and treats and sounds of shopkeepers as they call out to passersby. A few tips here: First and foremost, be prepared to haggle. Many prices are higher here due to the numbers of tourists, so do your research on how much an item should cost and be prepared to look elsewhere. If you see something you like, stop and look at it then as it will be almost impossible to find your way back.

The Spice Bazaar is a short walk from the Grand Bazaar and is another must-see filled with piles upon piles of spices you buy by the gram. For an inexpensive souvenir, take home some apple tea or kebab spices to remind you of Istanbul’s unique flavors.

Also consider visiting the Cavalry Bazaar, a small bazaar near the Blue Mosque that nonetheless has some wonderful shops offering some Istanbul’s best wares including rugs, ceramics, leather goods and textiles.

From the serene Haghia Sophia to the hectic Grand Bazaar, Istanbul is a fascinating metropolis with an endless mix of old and new sights to explore. A mere two-and-a-half hour plane ride from Munich, this city offers historical and cultural sights at the heart of every world history textbook. To learn about this place where two worlds meet is essential, to experience it in person is a rare opportunity that should be on top of any world traveler’s list.



Rugs and religious artifacts abound in the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts. English and Turkish information explains pieces from throughout the Islamic world.



An explosion of colors and smells delights visitors to the Spice Bazaar.



The Turkish flag drapes over an entrance to the Blue Mosque.



# Town hall meetings spell out changes

by **GINI SINCLAIR and RONALD H. TOLAND, JR.**  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

The quarterly round of town hall meetings got off to a slippery start at Storck Barracks Jan. 26, when Garrison Commander Col. Christopher Hickey discussed snow and driving safety, garrison funding and construction, and topped the meetings off with suggestions for energy conservation.

The commander discussed how snow closing decisions are made. At 4 a.m., a patrol weather check and call is made to the director of emergency services to determine current road conditions, who in turn reports to the commander. A decision is made at 5:30 a.m. to either delay or close the roads. DES then calls AFN to broadcast the closure or delay, which is announced on the air at about 6 a.m. Then, at 9:30 a.m. a second weather call is made to inform bus contractors of their required actions. This call is also used to determine road status for the next 10 to 12 hours, along with information from the 12th Weather Squadron.

"The Germans do not stop," said the commander, stressing that members should consult the garrison Web site for updated details and safe driving tips.

## Budget

With the garrison operational funding budget being 7 million less than last year, the commander stressed actions community members can take to help save money.

"Be energy smart," he said. "If you want more for your community the first thing to do is recycle – it is German law and we are obligated to follow it."

Don't bring your garbage on post if you live off post — the garrison pays twice to dispose of it, he said. He also recommended taking showers instead of baths, keeping vents closed and keeping heat on minimal levels.

"We need to save \$300,000 in

energy and \$400,000 on recycling this year," he said.

But regardless of the budget cuts, he noted that the Army Family Covenant benefits still stand.

"We are still funding AFC – 16 free hours of child care, barracks and housing renovations, child care centers, it is all still there," he said.

Hickey closed his comments with construction points around the community and then opened the discussion for questions and member concerns, which included: housing, moves during deployment; youth services; garbage and recycling bins; pet owner responsibilities and being good neighbors; Soldier barracks and cable television; the library and the community center; ACS' move; road completion; fixing laundry mat machines and a myriad of other issues being worked with garrison officials, as well as issues and concerns in Katterbach.

## Katterbach

About 50 residents braved the cold to find out the latest information on the community at the Katterbach Town Hall, Jan. 27. Hickey spoke to the audience at the Katterbach Theater about the funding situation, explaining that U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach (as did all USAREUR garrisons) took a huge hit this fiscal year. He said a number of items are fully funded this year such as the Army Family Covenant, Army Community Services, building security, utilities and support of tenant units.

Hickey discussed some of the cost-savings measures he plans to implement, which included closing the gate near the high school on Katterbach Kaserne during times of decreased usage. Also, he said in the future it may take longer to get ID cards and passports. When discussing savings measures, Hickey emphasized the recycling program, saying it is Army policy and German law. He said a kitchen bag of unsorted refuse

costs \$15 to dispose of and asked community members to multiply that times the number of kitchens in the Ansbach community for an idea of how much the garrison is spending in that area alone.

Last year USAG Ansbach spent \$3 million for unsorted refuse. The goal this year is to save \$400,000.

Energy was also a hot topic on Hickey's list of cost-saving measures. USAG Ansbach spent \$15 million on energy last year. The goal this year is to save \$300,000.

Hickey asked that everyone -- barracks, housing and offices -- turn off their lights when not in use. He said a 60-watt lightbulb burning all day will cost 20 cents. He suggested community members put their electrical items on a power strip, and then turn off the power strip so the items are not on stand-by when they aren't using them.

Hickey suggested washing large loads of clothes rather than several smaller loads and using cold water versus hot water whenever possible.

The cost of heat was another item Hickey covered. He asked that radiators be put on level 3 when residents are home. If they leave for a week, residents should turn it down to the "star" level. Keeping doors shut to rooms that aren't or don't need to be heated will also help lower the energy bill.

## Residents' concerns/renovations

Hickey discussed renovations at Katterbach, including turning the area across from the Burger King into a park with a gazebo. A digital marquee will be added to the park area as well. This year the back of the Burger King will be renovated and a Subway and a coffee shop will be added.

Hickey said the commissary will be selling sandwiches and other refreshments from a covered area outside its building.

The new super playground at Katterbach will open in May. The entire community will add 14 new



Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.

**Col. Christopher Hickey, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach garrison commander, addresses Soldiers and family members at a town hall meeting, Jan. 27.**

playgrounds; four at Storck Barracks, four at Katterbach Kaserne, and six at the Bleidorn Housing Area.

The veterinary clinic on Katterbach Kaserne will move and the Child Development Center will fill that space. The medical, dental and veterinary services will all be grouped together on Katterbach Kaserne.

The new PX is expected to be completed in two years and will be the most energy efficient store ever built.

Questions asked by concerned residents at the Katterbach Town Hall included abandoned vehicles, parking in family housing, and obtaining a key to bleed radiators.

Hickey said the USAG Ansbach staff is working on the problem of abandoned vehicles and trying to find more space to park them in. One of the problems he noted is some of the vehicles still have liens on them

and cannot be disposed of without a clear title.

As for keys to bleed radiators, Hickey said they will try to get them into the self-help stores so residents can do the bleeding themselves instead of calling in a work order.

As for parking in family housing, Hickey added there is a parking problem everywhere and while his staff is working to provide more, the problem exists outside the gates of the installation also. He noted that community members shouldn't be overly concerned with walking and could park in a lot a little further away from their destination.

Town hall meetings are designed to provide information to community residents, but are also intended to give the community an opportunity to bring its concerns to the attention of the USAG Ansbach staff for resolution.

# Father, daughter share promotion ceremony



**Top: Shelley Pedersen promotes daughter McKenzie Ellis from cadet/corporal to cadet/sergeant during a joint promotion ceremony, Feb. 1, at the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade headquarters building on Katterbach.**

**Bottom: Ellis' father, James Pedersen, 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, was promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant via video teleconference from Balad, Iraq.**

by **Sgt. ANNA K. PERRY**  
*12th Combat Aviation Brigade*

KATTERBACH, Germany – McKenzie Ellis got a pleasant surprise the morning of Feb. 1. The 15-year-old Ansbach High School sophomore arrived at the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade headquarters building on Katterbach to watch her father, James Pedersen, advance from sergeant to staff sergeant via video teleconference from his current Iraq deployment.

That morning Ellis learned that she would also be receiving a promotion – from cadet corporal to cadet sergeant.

Pedersen and his wife, Shelley, had arranged with the AHS Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps battalion about a week prior to the ceremony to conduct the joint event after he discovered that their daughter had passed the board and was eligible for promotion.

Pedersen was advanced first, and then tears flowed freely from Pedersen and younger daughter, Hayden, as Shelley placed cadet sergeant stripes on Ellis.

"I've been praying for us to be promoted in the same month, but I never imagined it would happen on the same day at the same time. This just feels amazing," Ellis said following her promotion.

The family's time together was short, but sweet. "I love you, daddy. I'm so proud of you," the girls called out as they said good-bye to their father after the promotion ceremony.

Ellis is a first-year JROTC cadet and, although she joined a year later than normal, she is right on track with promotions and looking forward to becoming a squad leader. The young woman said she pictures a future military career as an Army Blackhawk pilot.

Pedersen is an aircraft structural repairer with 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment in Balad, Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officers Lee Kokoszka and Ryan Mahany of 3-158 were also promoted from chief warrant officer 2 to chief warrant officer 3 during the VTC.



Photo by Capt. Tim Olliges

**Col. Christopher Hickey prepares to cut the ribbon in celebration of the official opening of the Ansbach Tax Center on Katterbach, Feb. 1, as members of the U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach community look on. The tax center will offer free tax preparation services to the USAG Ansbach community through June 30.**

# Ansbach Tax Center opens

by **Sgt. ANNA K. PERRY**  
*12th Combat Aviation Brigade*

This time of year often carries some negative connotations. After all, it is tax season. Members of U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach now have a valuable resource for combating tax-season blues.

The Ansbach Tax Center on Katterbach officially opened its doors, Feb. 1, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony presided over by Col. Christopher Hickey, USAG Ansbach commander.

During the brief ceremony, Hickey expressed his happiness at seeing members of the community attending the event, and said he hopes troops and their families will take advantage of the free tax preparation services being offered to them.

Several people were waiting in the hall to see tax preparers even as the ribbon was cut.

"We had a steady line of people coming in to file their taxes both the day of the ceremony

and today. We even worked through lunch," said Capt. Clare Oshaughnessy, who works in the legal office. "I anticipate it will continue to be steady for awhile as people who would like to get their tax returns as soon as possible come in."

Oshaughnessy said more than 38,000 tax returns were filed through the Ansbach Tax Center in 2009 and it is likely the center will process just as many, if not more, in 2010.

The tax centers on Ansbach and Storck Barracks will be available to the community on a walk-in basis from Feb. 1-15. After Feb. 15 the centers will begin accepting both walk-ins and appointments. The hours of operation for both locations will be from 9-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Monday through Friday until June 30.

Contact the Katterbach office at DSN 467-2324, CIV 09802-83-2324, and the Storck Barracks office at DSN 467-4511, CIV 09802-83-4511.



# Thrift store reopened after January ‘facelift’

by **DENISE TUDOR**  
*Garmisch Community and Spouses Club*

The Garmisch Community and Spouses Club Thrift Store reopened after being closed for two weeks to redesign the floor plan, rearrange the furniture, clean everything in the store, and go through every item to decide what should be donated, thrown away or retagged.

For many years the store was open three days each week and continued to serve the community, but without much service to itself. The store hadn’t had a facelift of any kind in many years, and clutter, dirt and wobbly fixtures were starting to take their toll. The Thrift Store had become difficult to maneuver in, difficult for the volunteers to monitor, and frankly, a little smelly.

But thanks to leadership and enthusiasm from GCSC members like Brandy Humphrey and Ruth Micka, as well as the hard work of many volunteers, the beloved Thrift Store made a dramatic turn around. The work was done in the evenings after work, on the weekends from dawn to dusk, and even a few midnight sessions.

In the end, the enthusiasm for creating a comfortable and enjoyable place to shop paid off. Out of season items were removed, all the electronics were tested, and a special area was



Courtesy photo

**The Garmisch Community and Spouses Club Thrift Store reopened recently with a new look and a plan to better serve the community.**

created just for newly consigned items. A special boutique area was established, and there’s plenty of room to walk around and see all the items offered.

“We now have room for furniture, but people must call to make arrangements before they can consign furniture,” said Humphrey. “The boutique section was also very well received, and we are looking for more handcrafted items to go in there.”

The store offers a way for community members to unload arts, crafts or knickknacks picked up on travels, or just something nice to consign as well. Select items will be featured in the boutique area by the door.

“The Thrift Store profits go to our welfare and scholarship programs,” said Humphrey. “The scholarship program gives money to graduating seniors for college.”

The welfare program puts money back into the community for various programs and events, Humphrey explained. For example, this year the club donated funds to the Mueller Fitness Center to purchase equipment, and to Army Community Service to fund refreshments for the upcoming Army Family Action Plan conference.

The GCSC meets bimonthly, which usually includes bingo, and has a fun monthly luncheon for members at different local restaurants, usually the third Thursday of the month. It also offers assorted social and volunteer activities throughout the year to the spouses of garrison community military personnel and civilian employees. The club even has its own Facebook page.

For more information about the GCSC consigning any items, visit the Thrift Store or e-mail [garmischcomclub@yahoo.com](mailto:garmischcomclub@yahoo.com).

# Garrison welcomes new chaplain at prayer luncheon

by **JOHN REESE**  
*USAG Garmisch Public Affairs*

The Garmisch Community Chapel sponsored a National Prayer Luncheon at the dining facility on Artillery Kaserne, Feb. 10. The event featured an interfaith program with a keynote address from U.S. Army Europe Chaplain (Col.) Charles Bailey.

The luncheon was the first community function outside of chapel duties for the new garrison chaplain.

“It is normally a prayer breakfast,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Sears. “It was scheduled before I arrived but I prefer lunch!”

The National Prayer Breakfast is a yearly event held in Washington, D.C., on the first Thursday of February. The first prayer breakfast groups within our federal government were initiated in 1942 in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. The Garmisch event was a breakfast in past years, but due to the busy schedules of the garrison community and the success of other luncheon events, the decision was made to shift this year’s event from breakfast to lunch.

“It is the first time I know of that Garmisch has held a National Prayer Luncheon,” said Cathy Wampler, religious education specialist for the chapel and longtime community member.



Photo by Cathy Wampler

**Flanked by their families in a moment of prayer, outgoing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Larry Pundt (left) passes the responsibility for the religious welfare of the Garmisch Community Chapel to Chaplain (Capt.) Kevin Sears in an emotional Changing of the Stole ceremony.**

Sears, a husband of 17 years and a father of two, originally enlisted for a tour in the U.S. Navy, where he served as a signalman aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 46). After his four years, he used the GI Bill to attend college and pursue a calling as a minister.

“I joined the Army Chaplaincy because of the structure of the Chaplain Corps,” explained Sears. “In talking with both chaplain recruiters I concluded that I was better suited for Army Chaplaincy. As you can imagine, the Navy would have been an easier transition, but the

Army Chaplain Candidate program ... allowed me to learn the Army culture and customs as a seminary student. I didn’t experience any inter service culture shock, just a steep learning curve.”

Soon after becoming an Army chaplain in 2002, Sears found himself at the tip of the spear ministering to Soldiers downrange.

“I served with the 3rd Infantry Division during the initial push into Iraq in March 2003 as a combat engineer chaplain,” said Sears. “I was part of the 11th Engineers and was attached to the 3rd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment aid station.”

Before transferring to Garmisch, Sears served at Camp Zama, Japan, assigned to the 35th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, where he was pastor of the main post chapel Protestant congregation. The change from the northern Pacific to the Alps has been taken in stride by the Sears family.

“My first impression of Garmisch has been great. Everyone has been so nice and helpful. Who wouldn’t love being here?” said Sears, echoing the garrison motto “It’s great to be here!”

Garrison life is good, added Sears.

“My desire is to work with chapel communities and make the worship experience and chapel culture one of love and fellowship,” he said. “A garrison is the best opportunity to fulfill that goal.”

## Auf wiedersehen



Photos by John Reese

Commissary Manager Teresa deJesus puts the finishing touches on a display. She will be leaving the snowy Alps of Garmisch at the end of the month for the sandy beaches of the Azores. A native of Portugal who arrived more than two years ago, deJesus oversaw the busy store through a number of modifications following a reset in 2007.

She always had time to assist her customers, including filling in at the check stand as necessary, and enthusiastically embraced her leadership position and the community she served.

“It’s been great working here in Garmisch, and I’m going to miss everyone,” said deJesus. Her replacement has not been selected yet.

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# 44th ESB prepares company for deployment



Photo by Jonathon Gray

**Capt. Jason Allen (center), Bravo Co. commander, 44th Expeditionary Battalion, gives Col. John Cox (left), commander, 5th Signal Command, a tour of 44th's Switch Park where the battalion conducted a validation exercise of their communication equipment for future operations.**

by **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. NICHOLAS ISLES and JONATHON GRAY**  
*44<sup>th</sup> ESB and 5<sup>th</sup> Signal Command Public Affairs*

In 2008, after returning from a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 5th Signal Command's 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion had a full year of redeployment, restationing and reset. It began the process of relocating from Mannheim to Schweinfurt as part of Global Rebased and Restructuring and kicked off 2010 with a validation exercise designed to test and authenticate its equipment.

Many Soldiers had recently arrived to 44th and that, coupled with below-freezing weather conditions, made training more realistic for Soldiers.

"It was my first time touching half this equipment, it was great hands-on training," said Pvt. Andrew Acampora, 44th ESB. "Not even the cold could stop me from learning."

The 44th has already completed Phase I of the Validation Exercise (VALEX), which consisted of consolidating spare unit equipment, testing antenna masts and validation of all 30 net-operation suites.

"We've been out here testing and training till 8 p.m. every day for two weeks," said Spc. Joseph Packer, 44th ESB. "Overall, it's been a great experience teaching these new Soldiers how to work their equipment."

Phase II of the exercise continued with Joint Network Transport Capability system validation. This part of the exercise focused on the Command Post Nodes (CPNs), Satellite Transportable Terminals (STTs) and Joint Network Nodes (JNNs). In this phase, the CPNs are connected through the STTs and validated by pulling nonsecure and secure Internet protocol data and voice, as well as the U.S. European domain through laptops and phones connected

to the CPNs.

"There has been some training happening, but our main goal here is to get the equipment up-and-running as best and as fast as we can," said Pvt. Mitchell Cotner, 44th ESB.

According to Cotner, the STT is a wonderful tool to help troops not only with the mission, but also with morale, welfare and recreation by connecting deployed Soldiers to the outside world.

The JNNs are validated in a similar manner, by connecting to Phoenix satellite terminals and verifying Time Division Multiple Access and Frequency-Division Multiple Access protocols and pulling services through laptops connected to the JNNs user access cases.

"It's like having broadband with you, you can take it with you anywhere around the world," said Spc. Kevin Moody, 44th ESB. "Because of the quick setup of the CPN, we can provide instantaneous communication."

Thanks in part to this exercise, one of 44th's companies will be deploying this spring on its upcoming mission to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Even though 44th will be one company lighter, it will still conduct normal operations throughout the European theater by providing communication support to three separate U.S. Army Europe missions - in Kosovo, Poland and Germany.

During the month of February, the 44th will also continue training and crew drills on the Line-of-Sight, Single Switch Shelter, the Phoenix Satellite terminal, STT and CPN.

"With a majority of Soldiers only with the unit for a few months, building cohesive teams and training up new Soldiers is a top priority for the battalion," said Maj. Luis Alvarado, 44th ESB operations officer.

In keeping with their vision statement, they are, "prepared to answer the nation's call to arms on a moment's notice."

# Community members make Clean Sweep a success at Askron Manor

Story and photo by  
**EMILY ATHENS**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Forty-five volunteers from around the community met at the commissary on Askren Manor to pick up trash and sort it at the recycling center, Feb. 6.

Operation Clean Sweep, an initiative that began in October 2009, brings community members together on a monthly basis and promotes a clean environment for those living in the Schweinfurt military community.

"It is all about actively helping our neighbors and making Askren a great place to live. So many of our extended family lives here," said Lt. Col. Everett Spain, U.S. Army Garrison commander.

Several tenant units had strong participation, including the 9th Engineer Battalion, 44th Signal Battalion, 15th Engineer Battalion, USAG Schweinfurt, and Schweinfurt Medical Department Activity.

Clean Sweep coordinator Master Sgt. Michael Boozer, noncommissioned officer in charge at Schweinfurt's Directorate of Public Works, and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Wright, of 15th Eng. Bn., divided Askren Manor into seven sectors, split the volunteers into teams, and passed out trash bags and gloves before the volunteers set out on their mission in search of garbage.

"We really enjoyed being out there and helping out the community. It's a great initiative and we plan to have 9th Engineer involvement every time," said Lt. Col. Ben Bigelow, 9th Engineer Battalion commander.

At the conclusion of the event, seven truckloads of trash were picked up and sorted at the recycling center. Despite the cold weather, community members remained in high spirits.

"It was wonderful to see everyone out there helping," said Cheryl Dean, director of Schweinfurt's American Red Cross. "It was cold, but we had a good time. There was a lot picked up. It was a great and successful morning."

"This was great, and we are going to make this a monthly event ... generally the first Saturday of every month. We are already looking forward to the next clean sweep," said USAG Schweinfurt's Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee.

The next clean sweep will be on Saturday, March 6, at 9 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to come out and help keep our community clean.

**Tina McDonald and her daughter, Ilissa, volunteer during Operation Clean Sweep, an effort to bring community members together and keep the military housing area clean. Clean Sweeps will occur monthly and everyone is invited to attend.**



# Schweinfurt Tax Center offers free tax preparation and assistance

by **CHRIS COMISH**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade*

A simple commercial tax return can cost more than \$200. If the taxpayer wants an immediate refund, that cost can climb even more. And that's if the person preparing taxes understands the latest tax law changes.

The Schweinfurt Tax Center, located on the second floor of Building 1 on Conn Barracks, offers free tax preparation and filing for Schweinfurt military personnel and their dependents.

The center is now open and will remain open through the overseas filing deadline of June 15. Paid tax preparers will be available to make appointments and see walk-in customers.

"Five trained tax preparers are preparing and filing returns this year," said Capt. Gregory Costello, legal assistance attorney with the Schweinfurt legal center.

"We have more than enough preparers to meet the demand. The Schweinfurt tax center filed around 4,000 tax returns last year and continues to lead the JMTC (Joint Multinational Training Command) in filing taxes,"

Preparers are equipped to electronically file federal and state income taxes and can help customers receive refunds, in many cases, within 10 to 14 days. Some cases require additional documentation. Individuals who do not have an Individual Tax Identification



Number will need to submit documents to the Internal Revenue Service prior to filing.

According to Costello, joint filers must bring either their spouse or special power of attorney for tax filing. Special powers of attorney for taxes are available at the Schweinfurt legal center. The legal center is available

for walk in appointments from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. every day except Thursday, when it is open from 1-3 p.m.

Another important reminder is that spouses whose Soldier-sponsor is deployed can file the return with a special power of attorney. Special powers of attorney can be created during unit predeployment family readiness processing prior to the Soldier's deployment.

Additionally, deployed Soldiers can create a signed power of attorney through their unit paralegal in their deployed unit and send it to their spouse. Taxpayers with complicated returns should take extra time to ensure that their documents are in order and should always have a copy of their prior year tax return available for the tax preparer. A tax return is complicated when it includes capital gains, rental real estate income or loss, foreign earned income or foreign taxes paid, or multiple state income tax returns.

This year tax payers have the opportunity to take advantage of new tax credits. Credits are far more valuable to taxpayers than deductions, because deductions only reduce the amount of income subject to tax, while credits are applied to a person's tax bill at the very end.

For more information, contact the Schweinfurt Tax Center.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call DSN 353-8286, CIV 09721-96-8286.

**Have an idea for a story or an event that needs coverage?  
 Call the Schweinfurt Public Affairs Office at DSN 354-1400, CIV 09721-96-1400**



# Schweinfurt Soldier speaks with actions

Story and photo by  
**EMILY ATHENS**

*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Two years ago, Spc. Jeffrey Jamaledine, a Schweinfurt Soldier, was still recovering from a bullet wound to the face, wondering if he'd ever get back into the action. Today, with what may seem like a lifetime later, Jamaledine has fully recovered and is awaiting his class date for Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., where he will continue his service in the U.S. Army.

"I'm here to take an active approach ... to do my part to make this a better country, a better world," Jamaledine said.

A native of West Berlin, Jamaledine grew up like any other child in Germany. He went to school and dreamed of becoming a professional soccer player. After 13 years of education in the German school system, he was offered a four-year soccer scholarship to Missouri Southern State College. Everything was going according to plan.

"Well before college I was in the German military. I was a German citizen, I had to do it. But after I was drafted and completed ten months of service, I received a scholarship in the States. I wanted to be a soccer pro; my dream was to play soccer," he said, with a slight German accent.

However, things would soon change and his life would take a different course after the devastation of Sept. 11, 2001, and other global acts of terrorism.

"It was just after (the terrorists) attacked London and Madrid," he said. "It made me mad that a small group of people were dictating what they wanted the majority to believe. I wanted to do my part."

Jamaledine said it was also better at that time for his family, a wife and two kids, to move back to Germany.

So after years of work with Enterprise Rent-A-Car and later earning a Masters in Business Administration, Jamaledine found himself in a U.S. Army recruiting office, making a life-changing commitment. He would later request to join a rapid deploying unit based out of Germany.

"I was stationed in Schweinfurt in 2005. It's my first and only duty station," he said, adding that he was with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 77<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment.

After combat training and unit preparations, Jamaledine finally got what he had been hoping for: a deployment.



**Spc. Jeffrey Jamaledine, left, site coordinator at the Schweinfurt Tax Office, assists a Soldier with his taxes. Jamaledine, a wounded warrior, still contributes to the Army mission and will attend Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Ga.**

"We deployed in August 2006 to Ramadi, Iraq. The night we got there we got mortared ... we couldn't even go out of the wire. It was just very horrible," he said, shaking his head.

Things soon got worse.

In January 2007, Jamaledine took a bullet to the chest while out on a mission. Fortunately, his bulletproof vest did its job, but didn't prevent against the painful blow he absorbed with his chest. The realities of combat had prevailed, but, little did he know, the ugly face of war would soon strike again.

"It was a normal day like any other ... July 1, 2007. We had just rolled back in and had a break ... got back, relaxed, had a shower. And it was steak and shrimp night. I couldn't wait to eat steak and shrimp," he said.

However, evening chow was delayed when Soldiers of his platoon called requesting food be brought out to the combat outpost outside of the Ramadi tent.

"On the way out we got a call from Blue Platoon saying they were taking fire and that there must've been 80 guys. They said they were almost black on ammo. We decided to take a truck and roll out there to see what he was talking about and, yeah, there

was close to 80 people shooting at us ... we were outnumbered," he said trailing off.

The events following rushed by in an instant as ammunition flew left and right, explosions lit up the night sky, and Apache helicopters hovered in an effort to aid the few ground forces fighting the many white-robed enemies.

"I was shooting from the M240 Bravo. It was controlled chaos. There were no friendly fire incidents ... we really had it under control. Then I looked left and I see (him) ... coming towards me," Jamaledine said, referring to an approaching enemy, strapped with an explosive vest, ready to kill.

"I couldn't tilt my M240 down far enough to engage, so I took the 240 out of the mount and leaned myself over ... if I didn't do what I did, our vehicle would've exploded. But by then my head was outside of the armor, so I took a bullet to the face," he said, pointing to the faint scar on his left cheek.

The bullet ripped through his skin, shattering and essentially disconnecting the bone structure of his jaw. The bullet still remains lodged in his temple today.

After several acts of heroism by Soldiers in the battle, a fight known today as the Battle of Donkey Island, Jamaledine, who was in and out of consciousness, was successfully transported to a medic tent in Balad, where he underwent his first of many surgeries.

Two days later, the specialist woke up in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center on the road to recovery. And in just two years, Jamaledine now finds himself back on his feet, ready to get back in the fight.

"After I got wounded, they wanted to make me leave the Army because to them I wasn't mission capable anymore. I was in the (Warrior Transition Unit). The WTU really did a lot to help me get back on my feet, but it's more for Soldiers who are getting out of the Army. But I wanted to return to duty ... to join the guys downrange," he said.

After joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, Jamaledine discovered a new skill and went to work for the Schweinfurt Tax Center as a site coordinator.

"I'm a big sucker in giving back. Although being downrange is more internally rewarding, this job is more personally (satisfying) ... because you

“ It was controlled chaos. ... we really had it under control. Then I looked left and I see (him) ... coming towards me. ”

**Spc. Jeffrey Jamaledine**  
Wounded Warrior, Site Coordinator,  
Schweinfurt Tax Office

tell anyone, 'hey, I opened a university in Ramadi' and they're like, 'hey, good job.' But you say, 'hey, I can give you a 4,500 dollar tax return,' and they'll be like, 'yeah!'" he said, laughing.

Despite his knack for filing taxes, the job is temporary and Jamaledine will soon head to OCS and continue his service to the Army, with full support of those who know him.

"Spc. Jamaledine's rank really belies his experience, maturity and ability," said Capt. Samuel Gregory, officer in charge of the Schweinfurt Law Center. "Aside from the military things that he always gets right, he has a very grounded personality and outlook that has helped tremendously to deal with those day-to-day situations within the office. ... We just can't brag about him enough."

So what's next for this Soldier? "I know how it is to be injured and there are a lot of things that are great, but things can be done better, so I'd like to work with Soldiers that came back from downrange wounded," he said.

"I understand what they're going through. So if I'm their commander, or platoon leader, I can say, 'hey, I was one of you guys' and I think that really says something. I want to do that and give back to the military," he said.

Whether it is his strong sense of patriotism, or just his genuine passion for giving back, Jamaledine stresses the importance of taking action for the things he believes in.

"Everybody gets born into a country," he said. "If you're born into France, you're French. I was born in Germany, so I'm born German. But I chose to be a U.S. citizen and there's not a day that I take things for granted. I want to do my part," he said, before repeating his life motto, "actions really do speak louder than words."

## Student spells victory for 4th year

‘Anticoagulant’ and ‘Curtain’ bring Miska the trophy

Story and photo by  
**EMILY ATHENS**

*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Fifteen students at Schweinfurt Middle School demonstrated their spelling talents by participating in the sixth annual spelling bee, Jan. 27. After completing two preliminary practice rounds, five students from each grade began the single-elimination competition, spelling words like velocity, financial and thoughtful.

After seven rounds, three students remained, showing off their spelling abilities before an audience of parents, teachers and their peers. The round quickly ended with two participants left, eighth-grader Matthew Kelly and sixth-grader Heather Miska.

After Kelly misspelled the word, "adieu," Miska seized the opportunity to win by correctly spelling "anticoagulant" and "curtain."

Upon learning she had spelled the words correctly, a teary-eyed Miska accepted her awards and graciously shook the hand of Kelly, runner-up, who will serve as alternate for the Europewide spelling bee in Wiesbaden, Germany.

"The neat thing is that this is Heather's fourth year in a row winning the bee and going to Wiesbaden," said Darlene Edgar, bee coordinator, who explained that Miska also took first place when she competed in the third, fourth



**Heather Miska correctly spells a word enroute to her fourth victory in as many years during the Schweinfurt Middle School spelling bee, Jan. 27. Miska will compete in the next round of the bee in Wiesbaden, Germany.**

and fifth grades.

Additionally, Miska was one of the youngest competitors in the bee, competing against mostly seventh- and eighth-graders.

"I love spelling," Miska said. "It just broadens your vocabulary and helps you learn more; and it's fun to learn."

Miska said she will prepare for the next

round of competition by reading and practicing her words, and described her upcoming trip to Wiesbaden as "very exciting."

"These spelling bees demonstrate how the students are excelling academically," said Phyllis Fuglaar, Schweinfurt Middle School principal. "It's a special talent to be able to spell, so each student did an excellent job."

## Drop-off zone ensures safety

by **EMILY ATHENS**

*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

A newly implemented drop-off and pick-up zone is available for parents of elementary school students in the Schweinfurt community. Located on Maple Street, adjacent to the Schweinfurt Elementary School on Askren Manor, parents can now drop off and pick up their children by pulling into the designated area, conveniently placed for parents to get in, and get out, without the hassle of having to park their car, or sit in clogged traffic.

"The purpose of this is to enhance the safety of children being dropped off and picked up at school, while especially making it easier for the parents," said Eddie Sauer, garrison safety officer.

Sauer emphasized that parking is forbidden in the designated area on all weekdays from 7-8:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m.; therefore, parents should remain in their car if utilizing the zone during this time.

"If parents have a child below first grade and they wish to walk them in, they must park in the commissary lot or somewhere else, not in the drop-off zone," Sauer said.

"It's OK to stop and allow their child to walk in, but it's not OK to leave the vehicle during this time. The military police will ticket," he said, explaining that signs with parking guidelines have been installed.

For more information concerning this new policy, call CIV 09721-96-1670.



# Course builds creativity, computer skills

Computer Aided Drafting course teaches students to think outside of the classroom

Story and photo by  
by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

When Mark Fitzgerald began teaching at Hohenfels High School, there were approximately six students enrolled in the school's Computer Aided Design course. Four years later, he teaches three CAD classes to 35 students in a school where the graduating class rarely tops 40.

"When he first got here I said 'Get going and build me a program, and he has built me a program,'" said Daniel Mendoza, Hohenfels Middle/High School principal.

That program now includes architectural drawing and engineering drawing courses that teach students how to turn a concept into reality.

"We use the CAD program to teach architectural and engineering principles along with the fundamentals of computer graphics and design," said Fitzgerald.

While that sounds like a lot of abstract concepts, Fitzgerald said he uses mostly hands-on instruction, something he is passionate about and the students seem to love.

"The way we learn the best is by doing," said Fitzgerald, explaining that most of his projects model those in a working CAD shop, using a computer to solve a problem and create a design, then turning that design into a working

3-D model.

For one project, students had to write a proposal from a company who wanted something built, then answer the proposal as the engineering firm by actually creating the design. His architectural design class is currently using blueprints and wood to create a scale model of a house.

"I like that it is so hands-on," said sophomore Bryce Cooper. "We get to build our ideas instead of someone telling us what to do. Just make sure your building doesn't collapse and you can pretty much make anything you want."

Providing students with that creative outlet while letting them use their hands is something Fitzgerald said is an important component of schooling.

"Computers are going to eventually take over our calculations — we need creative people who can think," said Fitzgerald.

To get his students thinking, Fitzgerald said he tries to get them out of the classroom whenever possible.

"I am a big proponent in outdoor education and learning that way," said Fitzgerald, who has taken his students on field trips to the CAD shop on post to see how the professionals operate and to an airplane hangar so they could see for themselves how the building was designed.

When they are in the classroom, students say Fitzgerald uses most of the time not lecturing but letting them work on their own projects, something that appeals to senior Florian Davis.

"He'll usually only talk for about 15 minutes, then he lets us go. He wants us to try our own solutions first or have other help before he steps in" said Davis.

"I didn't expect it to be so fun," said



Left to right: Matt Fisher, Corey Ezra and Florian Davis use balsa wood and blueprints to construct a model of a house for an architectural drawing class at Hohenfels High School. The class teaches students the fundamentals of Computer Aided Design using a creative, hands-on approach. The number of students taking the course has increased from six students to three full classes in the past four years.

Davis, who has taken both Fitzgerald's engineering drawing and architectural drawing classes and is now considering majoring in engineering or architecture when he goes to college.

"I can express my imagination, no one is going to say anything, I just do what I like to do," said Davis. He has even completed additional projects on his own time, including making plans

on the computer for a house his father designed on paper during a deployment.

"This gives them a heads-up if they are going into something along these lines in college," said Fitzgerald. "I had one student who took CAD classes at the Air Force Academy who came back and said she was glad she took them here first."

While not all Fitzgerald's students

will become engineers or architects, Mendoza said the skills the students learn are beneficial no matter what they do later in life.

"Students need to know how to use technology in theory and in reality," said Mendoza. "School isn't just about books or computers; learning also comes from your hands and from learning outside the classroom."



Sherman Watson III and Maxime Waiters explore new computers in the School Age Center computer lab at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, Feb. 5.

## Computers teach youth life skills

Story and photo by  
by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

Children at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels School Age Center and Youth Center got 14 more reasons to enjoy their after-school time at the facilities when Command Sgt. Maj. Brenda Kadet officially introduced the students to their new computers during an informal ribbon-cutting ceremony, Feb. 5.

Both the School Age Center, for children in first through sixth grade, and the Youth Center, for students in seventh through 12th grade, unveiled seven new computers and other technological equipment such as an electronic drawing tablet, robots and educational software.

Jennifer Barker, Child, Youth and School Services functional technology specialist, said the Army provided the new computers to help keep children connected with their deployed parents, though that is just one benefit of having up-to-date equipment.

"A lot of kids know more about computers than most adults. This is just further preparing them for the future," said Barker.

In the computer lab students can access typing classes, creative applications such as robotics kits and photo-editing software and numerous other educational programs, all in a safe environment.

According to Barker, the computers are equipped with a program that allows SAC and Youth Center staff to decide what children may do on the Internet and a log that shows staffers what sites the children visit and

what they look up in search engines. Before they are allowed to use the computers, children must take a training course, pass two tests and bring a permission slip from home.

Stacye Downing, Hohenfels Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation director, said providing children with access to technology is no longer a bonus amenity, it is a vital component of any child care facility.

"Children now are connected to technology; it's a part of who they are. They are not like adults who use it when we need it. For them, it's a necessity," said Downing. "This equipment is very interactive. They are in control of their environment. They are the creators."

While children enjoy the entertainment possibilities, the equipment also provides ample learning opportunities, whether the children are aware of it or not, said Kristin Jacobs-Schmid, USAG Hohenfels school liaison officer.

"Having this equipment increases their access to educational resources," said Jacobs-Schmid.

Not only do the children have access to more educational games on the new computers, but they also have better access to things like www.tutor.com, a site where students of military families have unlimited access to tutors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

While the children are drawn to the bells and whistles of the new equipment, Jacobs-Schmid said it is the experience itself that is most important.

"Using this technology, the students are learning life skills. In order to be competitive in today's society and in school, it is a necessity that they have computer skills," said Jacobs-Schmid. "We are very lucky the Army provides this equipment."

## Vigilant situational awareness critical to winter safety

by **RHYS FULLERLOVE**  
*Army Sustainment Command*

After weeks of red road conditions and frequent two-hour work delays, Hohenfels residents know well how treacherous winter can be. To stay safe for the remainder of winter, accident and injury prevention must be a part of winter activities, both on and off duty.

Officials at Army Sustainment Command Headquarters offered the following winter safety practices they said are key to preventing accidents and injuries.

Knowing your vehicle is especially useful in winter driving. You should know what your vehicle can and cannot do in winter conditions. (Hint: Your vehicle probably can't do a lot of the things shown in the commercial that made you want to buy it).

You should know if you have front, rear, part-time or full-time four-wheel drive; antilock brakes; traction control; and stability control.

Winter driving cannot be avoided.

Before setting out on your journey make sure that windows and mirrors are clear from snow and ice. Clearing the window means clearing the entire surface, not just a small porthole to see out of.

Contrary to all-too-common practice, you need a bigger window than the vision block found on an M1 Abrams tank.

Maintaining situational awareness is critical in winter driving. Slow down! Just because your vehicle has four-wheel-drive does not mean that you can slow down just as fast as you can on clear summer roads, even if you have antilock brakes. Increasing the distance between you and the car ahead of you can help prevent accidents. And just because you have control of your car doesn't mean everyone else does.

Even if a road looks clear, it may not be. Black ice is a thin and often invisible layer of ice that can form on sections of roads during the cold temperature months. The condition is

most prevalent when air temperature drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius).

Contributing factors promoting this condition include: fog or dew condensing on the colder surfaces of bridges, overpasses and shaded areas of roadways, wind-chill, or a rapid drop in ambient temperature causing moisture already on the road surface to freeze suddenly.

Driving is not the only winter safety concern. During the 2007/2008 winter season, slips and falls were the nation's, and ASC's, leading cause of mishaps. The greatest number occurred while walking down stairs and on sidewalks during inclement weather.

Risk assessments must be updated when weather conditions change. Wearing footwear designed for winter can help reduce the risk of falling. Wearing boots and changing into your dress shoes at work is an increasingly popular tactic.

Wind chill is another safety concern

that is often overlooked. Wind chill is not the actual temperature, but rather how wind and cold feel on exposed skin. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature.

When people say winter "bites" it really can. Frostbite is damage caused by extreme cold. A wind chill of -20 degrees Fahrenheit will cause frostbite in just 30 minutes. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities such as fingers, toes, ear lobes or the tip of the nose.

As temperatures start to drop, use of portable space heaters rises. Make sure to unplug heaters after use. Never leave them running when you are not present. If you must, purchase an electric space heater that bears the mark of an independent testing laboratory, such as UL, ETL or CSA. This ensures that the heater has passed all safety measures. Always place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can

burn including furniture, people, pets and window treatments.

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, do not operate generators indoors; the motor emits deadly carbon monoxide gas. Do not use charcoal to cook indoors. It, too, can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide gas. Do not use your gas oven to heat your home - prolonged use of an open oven in a closed house can create carbon monoxide gas. To ensure carbon monoxide is not a problem, make sure that you have proper detectors installed.

We can't run from it; winter weather settled in months ago and may be here for a while longer. Make sure you have a plan with your supervisor for inclement weather. It is up to supervisors to be able to adjust for absences due to weather. Family safety comes first.

It is everyone's responsibility to be alert and attentive to safety. Many accidents that happen can be prevented if people just take the time to do a quick safety assessment.



# Garrison examines efficiency of services

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels community members may begin to see changes across post as officials examine their budget to look for more efficient ways to provide services.

“In recent years, the Army and its installations have enjoyed unprecedented levels of funding. Funding levels of this magnitude are unsustainable year after year and as the country faces some stiff economic challenges, we are forced to reduce funding and exact a greater level of stewardship over our resources,” Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general of Installation Management Command, said in a press release.

At USAG Hohenfels, Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, garrison commander, said though some installation services and facilities may be affected by reduced funding, vital programs will remain untouched.

“Programs affecting life, health, safety, Army Forces Generation (the Army’s method of producing combat ready units) and the Army Family Covenant are fully funded and the Army stands behind those commitments,” said Quarles. Money for those and other projects, such as sustainment, restoration and

modernization of garrison facilities, comes from a different allocation than funding to run the garrison.

Nonetheless, Quarles said he and his staff are looking at ways the garrison can meet community needs while making the most of available resources.

“We have an inherent responsibility to eliminate inefficiencies and excess capacity in order to fulfill our obligation to be good stewards of the resources that we have been given,” said Quarles.

Quarles said though no final decisions have been made, he and his staff are considering closing the garrison dining facility. According to Quarles, the garrison dining facility has served fewer customers than Army standard dictates for the past year.

If the garrison DFAC does close, the Warrior Sports Cafe (the dining facility near 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment) would operate as the only dining facility on post, which Quarles said might prompt additional changes such as extending that facility’s hours to accommodate more customers.

Ed Jones, garrison director of logistics, said a closure would mean the on-post shuttle schedule would likely change to transport people to and from the Warrior Sports Cafe at meal times.

Whether the garrison decides to keep or close the dining facility,

“**There is no system in the world that can operate at 73 percent inefficiency. It is just not sustainable.**”

**Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles**  
Commander, USAG Hohenfels

Quarles said they plan to retain all current employees. He also said they do not plan to limit who may eat at the dining facility.

Independent of the fate of the garrison DFAC, Jones said the garrison is also looking for ways to better run the on-post shuttle service, currently running with 27 percent ridership.

“There is no system in the world that can operate at 73 percent inefficiency. It is just not sustainable,” said Quarles. “We’re looking at ways

to meet that community requirement more efficiently.”

Jones said ridership needs to grow to at least 50 percent.

Changes are also underway at the Transportation Motor Pool where, according to Jones, 25 percent of the nontactical vehicles in the Interagency Fleet Management System will be cut by April 1.

“We’re trying to help make unit commanders’ jobs easier by showing them what they are authorized and letting them decide which ones they want to cut instead of us telling them,” said Jones.

Unit commanders also have the option to keep a vehicle and reimburse the garrison for it if they choose, said Jones, adding that units who are currently reimbursing the garrison for their vehicles will not be included in the cuts.

In addition to the IFMS fleet, on-post employees can expect to see a slight reduction in the custodial services in their workplace.

“Most people in administrative facilities can expect to see custodial services reduced to once per week,” said Jim Einwaechter, director of public works. He said though nothing has been finalized, the community can also expect to see grass cut no more than once every two weeks, a change

perhaps most visible in the area around Gen. Patton Drive that was previously cut every week.

“We beg the community understands while we attempt to provide the best possible support within budget constraints. We will maintain a reasonable level of service rather than just diminishing services the community deserves and expects,” said Einwaechter.

“We are not going to modify any custodial services that affect child care, medical, dental or food service facilities,” said Quarles.

Though these and other changes are indicative of a garrison that is scrutinizing its budget to make each dollar go further, Quarles said he remains committed to providing an exemplary quality of life for the Hohenfels community.

“We are doing everything we can to continue the same quality of services and support for our customer base,” said Quarles.

“People can help by conserving energy,” Quarles said, explaining that utilities cost the garrison more than \$9 million per year, a large part of the budget. “Shut off the lights when you leave a room; shut down your computer at the end of the day. Every bit helps.”

# Partnership for Peace continues training at JMRC

Story and photos by  
**Sgt. 1st Class TYRONE WALKER**  
*JMRC Public Affairs*

At dusk on a bitter, cold morning recently, Staff Sgt. Jesus Medina of the Michigan National Guard stood behind a parked vehicle, guarding a dirt road leading to a small Afghan outpost during a simulated combat exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels, Germany.

With a member of the Latvian Army helping him guard the road, Medina took advantage of the time to practice some basic Latvian numbers, words and phrases — some he’s learned from studying books, others he’s picked up during everyday conversations.

“If I can pick up key phrases, it’s going to help,” said Medina, who is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan later this year with the Latvians.

The 31-year-old resident of Midland, Mich., is one of a small contingent of Michigan National Guard and Latvian soldiers teaming up to deploy to Afghanistan to mentor and train Afghan soldiers to take a leading role in defending their nation.

In the rigorous training environment, Medina realizes that he must use every spare moment to soak up as many new words as possible from his Baltic comrades. What he learns in this training environment could make a big difference should he and his Latvian comrades come under fire on the battlefield in Afghanistan.

“I need to know what they’re shouting so I can react,” Medina said.

Guardman Commander Maj. Robert Walker of Williamston, Mich., said the joint exercise is the first time this group of guardsmen and Latvians has worked together, so the training has been the best way to discover and to iron out unforeseen difficulties.

“There’s an understanding going into this exercise of language barriers. There’s



anticipation of tactics and technical barriers. But there could be other types of barriers there we hadn’t anticipated,” Walker said.

The deployment, scheduled later this year to Afghanistan, will mark the third time the Michigan National Guard and the Latvians have teamed up in Afghanistan.

The relationship between the Michigan National Guard and Latvian army stretches back

nearly 17 years, when the wolverine state and the Baltic state linked up in the Partnership for Peace, which pairs former Warsaw Pact nations with National Guard units from across the United States. Michigan guardsmen started training Latvia’s soldiers in 1993. In 2008, the state and the country sent their first joint team to help train soldiers in Afghanistan.

Maj. Audrey Zaburdajevs, commander of the



**Above: Michigan National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Gregg Walsh communicates via a radio while Latvian soldiers provide security on a rooftop during a simulated combat exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.**

**Left: Slovenian soldiers carry a mock casualty during the simulated combat exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. Slovenian soldiers played the role of Afghan soldiers to help prepare Michigan National guardsmen and Latvian soldiers, both part of an Observer Mentor Liaison Team, to deploy to Afghanistan to coach, teach and mentor an Afghan National Army unit.**

Latvian Landforces heading to Afghanistan, said the state to country relationship over the years has strengthened the cohesion between his soldiers and the guardsmen. That bond now brings them together to play a significant role in Afghanistan.

“The ongoing war against terrorists is not just an American war or Latvian war, we are fighting together against common threats,” Zaburdajevs said.

# Republic of Georgia chief of defense tours JMRC facility

by **TODD OLIVER**  
*JMRC Public Affairs*

The Joint Multinational Readiness Center hosted a visit from the Republic of Georgia’s Chief of Defense Maj. Gen. Devi Tchankotadze and U.S. Army Europe Commanding General Gen. Carter Ham, Jan. 23.

While visiting, Tchankotadze toured the training center’s operations facility, visited with Georgian soldiers and received briefings on JMRC training capabilities from Col. John Spiszer the JMRC commander of Operations Group. Tchankotadze was also given an operational update of the training his soldiers were conducting here.

Approximately 800 soldiers from Georgia’s 31st Infantry Brigade (Light) were here conducting a mission rehearsal exercise with elements from the U.S. Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group and the II Marine Expeditionary Force acting as observer/controllers/assessors.

The exercise was the last training opportunity prior to

the Georgian Battalion deploying to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force.

The six-month training program, intended to prepare the Georgians for combat operations with the Marines in Afghanistan, culminated with the JMRC training exercise.

The training, focused broadly on counterinsurgency operations and improving Afghanistan’s governance and infrastructure, was unique in that it simultaneously involved nearly 1,500 individuals from the U.S. Army, the Republic of Georgia and the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Maj. Gen. Devi Tchanlotadze, Republic of Georgia chief of defense, talks with Joint Multinational Training Center Commander of Operations Group Col. John Spiszer during a training event in Hohenfels, Jan. 23. More than 800 soldiers from the Republic of Georgia are training at JMRC for a deployment to Afghanistan.**

*Photo by Spc. Eric Cabral*





# Task Force Shield deactivates



Story and photo by  
**SpC. BETHANY L. LITTLE**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs*

After 17 months of hard work, Task Force Shield, otherwise known as the 172nd Infantry Brigade, rear detachment, deactivated during a casing of the colors ceremony at the Grafenwoehr Field House, Feb. 1.

"There are three things that must exist for rear detachment to work properly," said Col. Jeffery Sinclair, 172nd Infantry Brigade commander.

"First, the Soldiers here have to have the self-confidence to work outside their comfort zone. Then, the Soldiers deployed have to have trust in the Soldiers in TF Shield and know that they will take care of them. Finally, Soldiers here must have an unwavering passion and know that their work does make a difference within the formation."

Across the brigade, over 100 TF

Shield Soldiers helped the families of deployed Soldiers and kept operations functional in garrison while the unit focused on its missions in Iraq.

Some other tasks required of TF Shield Soldiers were the preparation of facilities prior to the units redeploying and providing care for sick and injured

Soldiers, as well as their families.

"There were a lot of challenges I faced while on TF Shield," said 1st Lt. Kenneth Peterson, TF Shield plans officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Inf. Bde. "My biggest challenge was to maintain communication and coordination between the different leftlevels of staff, such as United States Army Europe."

Soldiers of TF Shield also helped their battalions maintain mission readiness by providing support and deploying approximately 400 Soldiers to Iraq after the initial deployment.

"Many of my junior Soldiers were required to step up to learn not only their jobs but several jobs at once," said Lt. Col. Eric Stetson, rear detachment commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Inf. Bde. "All of my TF Shield Soldiers demonstrated their skills through their dedication to their work and accomplishing any tasks that was required of them."

The ceremony had representation from each rear detachment battalion, and separate company, which paid tribute to the hard work and dedication displayed through their 17-month activation.

"This is an important and culminating event that signifies mission accomplishment and formalizes an end of tour for TF Shield Soldiers," said Stetson. "They've worked really hard with only two weeks of leave over a period of 516 days, they deserve this break."

**Soldiers here have to have the self-confidence to work outside their comfort zone. Then, the Soldiers deployed have to have trust in the Soldiers in TF Shield and know that they will take care of them.**

**Col. Jeffery Sinclair**  
172nd Infantry Brigade Commander

**Lt. Col. Eric Stetson, left, Brigade Rear Detachment Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 172nd Inf. Bde., and 1st Sgt. Cameron Gaines case the Task Force Shield colors during the rear detachment deactivation ceremony, at the Grafenwoehr Field House, Feb. 1. The casing of colors officially ends the deployment cycle for the 172nd Inf. Bde.**

# Fox returns to regiment after 24 years

Sergeant major is proof positive that 'Once a Dragoon always a Dragoon'

by **SpC. JERRY WILSON**  
*2SCR Public Affairs*

In 1986 a young private, fresh out of training, reported to his first duty station in Bamberg, Germany. He was assigned to the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment and spent most of his days patrolling the German and Czech borders. Now, 24 years later, Sgt. Maj. Michael Fox's career has come full circle and brought him back to the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

Fox is happy to be back where it all started for him. Reporting to 2SCR Jan. 28, 2010, was like coming home for the newly promoted sergeant major.

"It's great! Since I left the first time, I always said that I wanted to come back," Fox said.

As time and his career progressed, Fox began to feel like rejoining the regiment was an impossible goal. His various duties took him all over Europe, the United States and Korea. Now with 12 permanent changes of station under his belt, he hopes to settle down and eventually retire as a



**Fox**

part of the 2SCR.

While stationed in the United States, Fox had an opportunity to join up with ACR when it was located in Fort Polk, La. Unfortunately for him, the regiment reflagged back to Germany before he was able to move over. His last chance to join 2SCR slipped through his fingers as well, even though he had the orders in hand. Fox's name appeared on the sergeant major promotion list, which meant 2SCR didn't have an available position open for him. The 172nd Infantry Brigade was preparing to deploy around that time so they took Fox on as their rear detachment sergeant major.

"Rear-D is a tough job. It's not anything that I would like to do again," Fox said. "I had a lot of responsibility, so I learned a lot, but I missed

a lot as well. I would leave before my family woke up and arrive home after they went to bed."

Looking to the near future, Fox is excited to get to work as the operational sergeant major for 4th Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

"If I can leave that squadron better off than when I first take it on, then I will have accomplished what I set out to do."

To Sgt. Maj. Fox camaraderie and motivation are important aspects of the regiment.

"It's a different deal here. Here, everyone's the same, everyone wears the same crest. Morale is always higher in the Cav.," he said.

Fox said he feels like he is finally where he was always meant to be and looks forward to working with in the regiment. Fox is proof that the 2SCR saying "Once a Dragoon, always a Dragoon" rings true.

# Blackhawk Brigade views training opportunities at JMSC

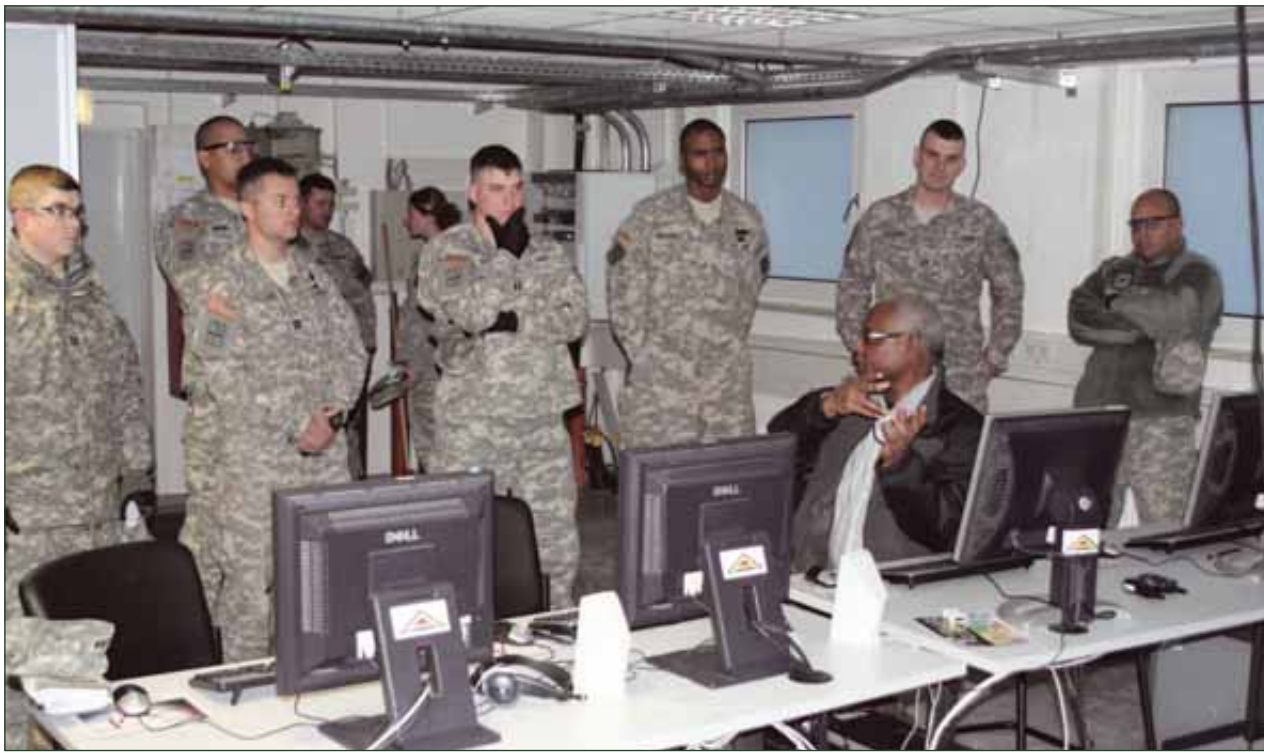
by **Maj. ROB YOUNG**  
*JMSC Public Affairs*

Leaders from the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade recently visited the Joint Multinational Simulations Center (JMSC) at Camp Aachen. The visit was part of the 172nd reset and reintegration program to familiarize leaders with the capabilities within the Joint Multinational Training Command.

According to 1st Lt. Sarah Turner from the Brigade's S3, the purpose of the visit was to bring all commanders, first sergeants and select brigade staff leaders to the JMSC and get an overview of the assets available to support the brigade's training. By observing the JMSC capabilities, leaders are able to approach training management with a better understanding of available resources and options, resulting in better training plans.

JMSC training specialists provided Blackhawk leaders with an overview of battle command training capabilities as well as a tour of intelligence training facilities, small unit collective training capabilities and the Digital University that trains leaders and Soldiers on Army Battle Command Systems.

Highlights of the visit included capabilities focused on small unit collective training: Virtual Battle Space 2, Human Intelligence (HUMINT) Control Cell, and the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) initiative. VBS2 is a First Person Simulation (FPS), much like



*Photo by James Kirby*

**Blackhawk Leaders receive an overview of Virtual Battle Space 2 training capability from Ed Rykard.**

Call of Duty or Halo games. It allows the Soldier to conduct mounted or dismounted missions on geospecific or geotypical terrain. VBS2 provides an excellent opportunity to work small unit collective training tasks at the crawl and walk level. This tactical gaming capability can be integrated

into unit IED-Defeat training programs to improve skills necessary for more complex operations.

The HUMINT Control Cell (HCC) is an interactive computer simulation using a life-sized projected image and voice recognition software to replicate typical human interaction

on the battlefield. The program was initially fielded to train HUMINT and counterintelligence Soldiers; however it has proved to be a much better platform for training Soldiers in tactical questioning. The most effective method for training tactical questioning has been using the HCC as

a training aid with a HUMINT Soldier as the primary instructor. All these capabilities are exportable to support unit training locations.

Leaders also received an overview of the battle command training opportunities offered through the Digital University. JMSC provides training for leaders and Soldiers on all Army Battle Command Systems (ABCS) as well as Web-based applications such as JTCOIC, CIDNE and TIGR.

Lt. Col. William Jones, the director of the JMSC said the simulation center is not just focused on large staff exercises.

"We are supporting an increased number of training exercises at the platoon, company and battalion level," he said.

Jones fully expects this trend to continue into the foreseeable future. During the visit, several leaders commented on the importance of understanding the spectrum of JMTC capabilities early in the units Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) process. Maj. Erik Krivda, the brigade operations officer, said the visit was helpful for leaders in the brigade and improved their understanding of JMTC capabilities.

Units desiring to conduct a similar site visit should coordinate with the JMSC at DSN 474-2479.

*Editor's Note: Maj. Rob Young is an exercise planner at the Joint Multinational Simulations Center.*



# Tiger Team reduces inefficiency

Continued from page 1  
assessment of all exterior road and site lighting. One of the first areas looked at was the parking lot at the Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks AAFES/PX Facility. Although the facility closes at 8 p.m., the parking area was illuminate long into the night. The new energy efficient set-up now provides lighting until 10 p.m. at Main Post and 11 p.m. at Rose Barracks to accommodate the AAFES movie schedules.

Measurements with a lux meter showed that many streets were illuminated at lighting levels in excess of the minimum requirement. The team, headed by the DPW electrical engineer Werner Stein, recommended several ways to slash the street light energy consumption. Reducing the operation hours and removing the lamps are simple measures that were implemented. Using new technology is another approach.

Several recently constructed parking lots are equipped with modern lighting technologies. These fixtures can be dimmed to the required level and consume far less electricity. Adequate illumination levels will still be maintained, according to Stein.

Replacing interior inefficient lamps or light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs is another measure that is taking place. “Energy saving lightbulbs” are available at the DPW Self Help Store for all customers.

These will replace the inefficient, old incandescent bulb that will soon disappear from store shelves, as they have been banned by the European Union.

USAG Operations & Maintenance Chief Jeff Darrow said the broader goal is to change the culture of consumption. Everybody can contribute to a reduction in energy consumption by simply switching lights off when not needed.

**A Directorate of Public Works electrician reduces lighting levels of street lights to a minimum level on Grafenwoehr’s Main Post.**



# Interactive Customer Evaluation asks what’s working, not

*Staff Report*

You hear about it all the time on the radio, but do you really know why ICE is important?

Interactive Customer Evaluation — or ICE — is an on-line customer comment program that lets you tell us what you think about the services and products you receive, and the facilities you use in our community.

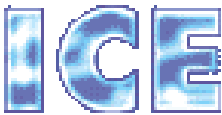
By entering a comment on the ICE Web site, you let us know what we are doing right, and what could use some improvement.

Your input provides us with a way to give kudos to people and facilities in our community that are our shining diamonds — and the knowledge needed to help polish up those that are “diamonds-in-the-rough.”

Think you can’t make a difference? Think again.

ICE is also a place to get information. At the very least you get the location and phone number for the services and facilities listed on ICE; and many service providers use the frequently asked questions (FAQ) and events and announcements sections that can be accessed from the comment card.

So log into the Interactive Customer Evaluation site at <https://ice.disa.mil> and let us know what you think!



# Communities share resources, battle winter

Continued from page 1  
the Access Control Points, primary roads and high utilization parking lots, which receive significant traffic volumes.

These parking lots include the dining facilities, gyms and consolidated parking lots serving multiple tenants. These priorities are followed by clearing the PX and commissary parking lots and later secondary roads and lower priority parking areas.

The USAG DPW snow and ice removal assault begins at 4 a.m. or earlier if called in by the Installation Operations Center (IOC). Under continuous snow fall conditions, and with a reduction in our overall salt supply, our crews have been forced to repeat our treatment of the primary roads and Access Control Points, slowing our ability to move on to the less traveled areas within the garrison.

Stephan Kohl, program manager from the DPW Buildings and Grounds Branch, said “When we are forced to repeat our work on high volume roads, we share the community’s frustration with our delay in being able to reach the secondary roads and parking areas. Under these aggressive snow conditions, we urge individual caution. If possible, we should delay our travel.”

Fortunately, Mother Nature offered us a four-day cease fire, allowing our teams time to retool and reload our trucks and equipment in preparation of her next assault.

The DPW Buildings and Grounds snow and ice

removal team takes the lead; however, the success of the overall mission would not be possible without the partnership of our tenant organizations and adjacent communities. With snow shovels and bag salt handed out at the DPW Self Help stores, nearly all organizations have jumped in to keep their building entries and pedestrian ways snow and ice free.

“These partnerships are critical to prevent personal injury accidents - we simply can’t be at all locations early on in our response to heavy snow fall,” Kohl said.

Larger tenant organizations, such as DoDDS Schools, run a site-specific snow and ice removal contract serving their extensive sidewalk and teacher parking areas. The city of Eschenbach represents a significant partner within the team, providing the complete snow and ice removal service for the Netzaberg leased housing. Their services are matched by the DPW crews serving the Netzaberg town center.

With more than six weeks of winter remaining, the USAG DPW expects more sustained frontal attack from Mother Nature, however, the crews are well-equipped to respond. With the combined team efforts of the DPW crews, USAG tenant organizations and adjacent partner communities, we are winning the war and are prepared to counter attack anything Mother Nature delivers.

*Editor’s Note: Jeff Darrow is the chief of operations and maintenance at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr’s Directorate of Public Works.*

# Captive audience



**Christi Ham, wife of Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general, U.S. Army Europe, listens intently to Ashantique Wilson, an eighth-grader at Netzaberg Middle School, during a visit to U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Feb. 1. Ham visited with students at NMS to get a firsthand view of student perceptions of the school’s quality and needs. In addition to NMS, Ham visited the Netzaberg Teen Center, Vilseck Thrift Shop and met with family readiness group leaders.**

*Photo by Trecia A. Wilson*

# Clinic focuses on preventable dental diseases in February

Continued from page 11  
rather than the exact amount of sugar consumed at any one time.

In children who still drink from a bottle, one of the most frequent causes of dental decay is putting the child to bed with a bottle. Both milk and juice contain sugar, which remains on the babies teeth overnight resulting in the formation of “nursing bottle caries.”

Aside from the pain and discomfort associated with the cavities, the required treatment can also be extensive. In extreme cases the teeth cannot be salvaged and have to be removed.

Clearly, the dental profession’s expressed wish is to prevent cavities in children and to create a home care regimen that would serve to simultaneously improve oral hygiene and decrease the frequency of sugar consumption.

We recommend that parents review proper

tooth-brushing techniques with your dentist, and be sure that your children can brush properly before allowing them to brush on their own. As long as the spaces between the teeth are wide enough to allow toothbrush access, flossing is not absolutely necessary. As soon as the spaces between the teeth disappear, regular, daily flossing should begin in earnest.

In spite of intensive education campaigns to the contrary, many parents still regard the primary dentition as “expendable” and consciously elect not to invest in prevention and maintenance of their children’s “baby” teeth. This is shortsighted as the primary teeth must last several years and can significantly impact the health and sequential eruption of the permanent teeth. The primary teeth also serve as space maintainers or “placeholders.”

Preserving the integrity of the dental arch serves to minimize crowding of the erupting

permanent teeth. The permanent teeth are designed to last a lifetime and the maintenance of the dentition will dramatically impact our quality of life.

The majority of dental problems could be alleviated or prevented by regular brushing, flossing and periodic visits to a dental health care professional. As a parent, you need to take an active role in keeping your children’s teeth healthy. Here are some tips on keeping American children smiling for generations to come:

- \* Before your infant’s teeth appear, thoroughly clean the gums and oral tissues with a wet washcloth.

- \* As the primary teeth begin to erupt, brush them with water and a small, soft, bristled toothbrush.

- \* Once children are old enough to spit (about age 2) help them brush their teeth at least twice

daily with a fluoride-containing toothpaste.

- \* Parents need to take an active role in an effort to restrict sugary food and drink consumption to meal times only.

- \* Provide nutritious and balanced meals and limit between meal snacking.

- \* Visit your dentist regularly and inquire about the possibility of supplemental fluoride and the placement of dental sealants.

- \* Positively promote oral health at home.

- \* Patients should be encouraged to use sugar-free chewing gum, particularly containing Xylitol, when this is acceptable.

Wellness and preventive initiatives have always been fundamental principles of oral health care. Teeth were meant to last a lifetime - let’s start early to ensure their preservation.

*Editor’s Note: Col. Theresa S. Gonzales is the commander of the Bavaria Dental Activity.*